

inside

The COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION MINISTERS met in Nicosia this week. John O'Leary looks at the barriers to uniform policy on student fees and considers what has changed and what not since the last conference, four years ago in Sri Lanka (page 10)

Polemic or particularities? Universities are increasingly faced with the need to find **SUPPLEMENTARY INCOME**. Ray Footman describes the initiatives of the Conference of University Administrators in the direction of fund-raising (page 12)

Science normal and extraordinary: some scientific work readily fits an existing consensus; some dramatically violates it. Where does that leave the science teacher? Steve Shapin and Harry Collins discuss the needs and problems of SCIENCE EDUCATION in the 1980s (page 13)



Head of a statue from the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, now in the British Museum

Western art is deeply entwined with military, economic and social superiority; but where do art-works belong? In the country of origin? or in the country of historical ownership? In her column this week, Pauline Stafford considers the hypocrisy rooted at the heart of ARTISTIC NATIONALISM (page 14)

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Stuart Walkland on the Labour Party
IT: the American/Australian angles



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Closing down the OU

The Open University is an exceptional university. Its pattern of variable and non-variable costs, of capital and recurrent expenditure, of overheads and consumables is quite unlike that of any other university. The Department of Education and Science is an inexperienced funding agency. All the detailed expertise about how the University Grants Committee and the DES itself is responsible for only a few direct grant institutions, all of which apart from the Open University tend to be relatively small and relatively simple in their financial profiles. So one of the most complex funding operations in higher education has to be undertaken by one of the most inexperienced funding agencies.

The result is a disastrous gap between the OU's own assessment of its own financial future and the assessment made by the DES. Sir Keith Joseph told the House of Commons Select Committee last week that he did not accept that the OU faced a cut of £13.5m by 1986 and announced that his provisional allocations of £59.1m in 1985 and £58.2m in 1986 were now firm decisions. The OU reacted angrily to both statement and announcement. It reaffirmed that the university did face substantial cuts of £3.3m in the present year, £4m in 1985 and a further £6m in 1986.

So we are faced with an irreconcilable clash of views. According to the DES the OU has almost nothing to worry about. According to the OU itself it has almost everything to worry about. The sheer disparity between these two assessments is alarming. In 1981 the UGC and Salford University did not disagree about the actual impact that the cuts announced in that year would have on the university, however much they disagreed about the wisdom or the fairness of those cuts. There is no disagreement between the National Advisory Body and the polytechnics and colleges about the detailed financial impact of its recommendations for the 1984/85 pool allocation, however much dissent there may be about the appropriateness of the NAB's strategy for change.

But with the OU there is not even this basic factual agreement between the university and its funder. Something must be very wrong with an administrative and financial relationship which permits such wide variation in perceptions of what should be fairly straightforward facts. So who should we believe? The OU no doubt has overcooked its case a little. But it is difficult to believe that the DES is

really come to grips with the financial characteristics of the OU. The department does seem to recognize that in every sense the university is a special case. Because of the heavy investment in both academic and technical terms that must be made before a single student is enrolled on a course, the costs of the OU are heavily front-loaded. If the conventional university can be compared with a car factory, the OU is more like a publishing house - with the crucial difference that its back-list can be arbitrarily cut by Sir Keith Joseph.

The DES shows little sign of understanding the constraints which the basic structure of the OU's operation impose on the university's freedom for manoeuvre. Its unofficial hints that cuts in academic staff might offer a way out demonstrate the depth of its ignorance. Even if the relevant question of why the OU should be the first university to discard academic tenure is left to one side, it is clear that staff cuts unless they were truly massive would not enable the DES to absorb the cuts imposed. And staff cuts and course cancellations - for the one leads inexorably to the other - would be like a publisher solving his cash problems by curtailing his list of forthcoming books, which of course simply leads to an even deeper cash crisis in the future.

So the first conclusion that can be reached about the present disagreement between the OU and the DES is that Government departments, however good they may be at politics, are indifferent and ignorant managers. The tentative moves a few years ago to explore the possibility of the OU being funded through the UGC like all the other universities petered out. But the recent emergence of a UGC/NAB duality in higher education funding and planning makes it urgent that new attention should be given to the position of the OU. The fact that both bodies are urging their dependent institutions to become more involved in continuing education, which is also an important area of development for the OU, makes the effective exclusion of the OU increasingly anomalous. Even if the DES had not been the incompetent custodian of the OU's future, there would be a strong case for ending the present

However it would be naive to see the present disagreement simply in terms of the clash between the sophistication of the OU and the inexperience of the DES. For beneath the clash of views about the effects of Sir Keith's cuts on the university lurks a more fundamental

disagreement about the future direction of the OU. To put it at its simplest, present ministers take the view that the OU has done its work and should not sit back, while the OU believes that with the new age of continuing education about to dawn the university has only just begun the job it was designed for back in the 1960s. So the DES's policy is one of retrenchment while the OU's is one of growth.

The clearest sign of this fundamental disagreement is the Government's approach to the OU's involvement in continuing education. It has insisted that the university's continuing education programmes should be self-financing, despite the fact reiterated in both UGC and NAB continuing education group reports that this is such a slippery concept that no one has been able to pick it up off the financial floor. Second, the DES insisted that the OU should be a strictly repayable loan, which seemed to suggest that while the department knew that the OU's expertise in this area was so great that it had to receive some money it was given with the maximum ill grace. Third, the contrast between the lavish funding of the untried Open Tech project and the parsimonious treatment of the experienced Open University is an eloquent demonstration of the Government's prejudiced priorities.

The Government cannot have it both ways. If the OU is to enter a period of sedate middle age, the drive towards continuing education in the conventional university and the polytechnic and college sectors is without substance. But if continuing education is truly the wave of the future, the OU because of its unrivalled experience in continuing learning and in appealing to non-traditional students must have a central role to play. In the end the DES will have to decide whether its political antipathy to the OU should be given greater weight than its fear of the Manpower Services Commission steamroller.

Yet the debate should not be reduced to such crude realpolitik. The OU has been a great success story. Ask any foreign observer of British higher education. It has immeasurably enriched our view of a liberal higher education for all, or at any rate the common man and woman in its first 15 years. In its second 15 years it has the potential to play a similarly creative role in the development of continuing education, a task of such crucial importance to the upgrading of our skills and the regeneration of our culture.

The priorities of science

Social scientists who study science policy are apt to be amused at the efforts of natural scientists to solve political problems. Sometimes, amusement turns to distress at their more extravagant colleagues' insistence that all research is valuable, rewarding, and vital to the national well-being. An echo of that distress is heard in Sir Douglas Hague's recent comments on the Advisory Board for the Research Councils. Sir Douglas, a member of the ABRC who became a chair of the Economic and Social Research Council, finds the board's machinery for setting priorities ill-developed. Although several of his fellow board members insist he has not explained precisely what should be changed, he is right in his identification of the problem.

Sir Douglas's key word is management. And he has come to the ABRC when the board and the five research councils, over which it uncomfortably presides, are in a transition to more active management. Signs of this abound. The Science and Engineering Research Council, which has dubbed the current state of the science budget "stagnant", is planning to develop engineering practice developed in the

for science research in universities. The Agriculture and Food Research Council, and now the unloved Natural Environment Research Council are developing corporate plans to help balance research portfolios between their own institutes and university or polytechnic departments. Even the Medical Research Council, last bastion of the traditional view, has a research council's job is simply to give money to first class chaps and let them get on with first class research, is now groping its way toward a strategy.

This trend is bound to grow stronger, unless one assumes that research councils will be unique among public agencies in evading the need to develop new initiatives on static or declining budgets. With it will come a demand for much more information about inputs and outputs from government-funded research. For part of Sir Douglas's message to the ABRC is that taking management seriously requires new management tools. The information needed to develop a genuine budget in response to grant requests coming from below is quite different from the detailed knowledge of patterns of expenditure essential to setting research priorities. Peer review must be replaced by a process, but supply

A few steps are in hand to pull together the information needed. The SERC has a strategy group to estimate the impact of dropping chunks of existing research. The ABRC has commissioned studies to test methods of evaluating research. The results, soon to be considered by the board, seem to show that techniques developed at the Science Policy Research Unit in Sussex offer the best guide to quality control. Happily, they are also the cheapest to apply. More ambitiously, the Alvey Corporation in the Department of Trade and Industry have commissioned three academic groups to scrutinize their massive programme of computer research while it is still running. And looking further ahead, a group from the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development is working quietly, and confidentially, to assess techniques for picking economically promising research areas.

But this effort overall will give us very detailed ideas about a few areas to supplement the general figures already available for larger categories of expenditure. There will still be a large gap in between, which can only be filled by extensive research designed to produce hard information about scientific performance in a whole range of

Laurie Taylor



Darling
Yes my sweet love.
Kiss me again.
Aah.
Oooh.
Do you know something my little pointy shrimp? This is the loveliest thing I've ever had.
And me. And me.
I've forgotten all about that silly thesis.
Silly thesis.
And you're not thinking about your old lecture notes are you?
A million miles away, my princess.
Do you think anyone else in the department is having such a good time as us?
Impossible.
Isn't it wonderful when you feel so close to someone that you're almost one being?

A single body.
A single eye.
But still of course with our independent intellect.
Absolutely. Both living our own lives alongside each other.
And yet this time last Christmas we were just two people who passed each other in the departmental corridor.
Two names in the prospectus.
Just two members of the General Academic Board.
Not any more.
Never again.
Aah.
Oooh.
And you're sure you liked my present?

Loved it. Just what I wanted. Can't wait to see their eyes when I walk in with it on the first day of term. The best briefcase in the faculty.
It's real leather, you know.
I know my sweet.
And with an extra wide gusset for your big fat books.
Is that what they really said? Oh you funny funny shrimp face. And did you like yours?

You know I did. Such lovely books, so clever. That beautiful Fay Weldon and that naughty Anis Nini.
We'll read some tonight. Perhaps the one about the evil baron. Before the late night film.
Oh yes please. But after the cold champagne.
And the liqueur chocolates. Yummy scrumptious.
Silly boy. And if you are good you shall have the Tia Maria. Such a baby. Such a baby.

I am really just a little boy.
Course you are. Come to Mummy for another kiss.
Aah.
Ooh.
Darling?
Yes?

Is not this magic? The log fire. The fairy lights. Vivaldi on the stereo and the rain pattering on the windows.
Magic. Do you think . . . ?
What is it princess. Tell me. Tell your big boy.
Do you think I is really all right.
All right?
All right for us to be doing it here. Here in the columns of *The Times*.
Quite safe my pretty nut crumble.
Quite safe.
Sure?
Sure. It is Boxing Day. Boxing Day. No one, absolutely no one will think of looking for us here today. It is the most secret place in the whole big world.
Aah.
Oooh.

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Fee review promised by Brooke

by John O'Leary

Mr Peter Brooke, under-secretary for higher education, reacting to strong pressure from other Commonwealth ministers, has agreed to a review of the Government's policy of full-cost fees for overseas students. But he warned his counterparts that there was little chance of a change of heart.

The ministers are to meet again before the Unesco general conference in 15 months' time to hear reports from Britain and the other Commonwealth countries now charging differential fees for foreign students.

It was the nearest Mr Brooke came to offering any concession on the British policy, which was the subject of a somewhat emotional and acrimonious session during last week's meeting of Commonwealth education ministers, in Nicosia. At one stage, there were even fears that he would feel unable to sign a statement on student mobility if it called for reductions in fees.

However, delicate negotiations over the drafting of the statement produced a paragraph which declared: "Our overwhelming belief that, reflecting the benefit to the host country from receiving Commonwealth students and with a view to preserving Commonwealth links, fees or equivalent charges levied on students from other Commonwealth countries should be less than 'full cost'."

Support for the 28 recommendations of the standing committee on student mobility, again including fees reductions, was also described as overwhelming. Sir Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth secretary-general, urged the worried British delegation that the word was "a term of art" of international conferences, indicating some dissent, rather than emphasizing strength of feeling.

Elsewhere, the statement registered the ministers' sense of disappointment and unease about educational interchange. It warned of the danger of a downward spiral in mobility between Commonwealth countries and added: "We believe this rising tide of protectionism must and can be halted."

The ministers also promised to promote consultations between governments whenever major adjustments affecting students from other Commonwealth countries are contemplated. Their additional meeting next year would assess progress towards carrying out their recommendations and consider what practical and collaborative measures could be taken to promote student exchange.

In the conference communiqué, the ministers gave priority to the secretary's work in higher education. Although a move for additional funds for the establishment of the planned Commonwealth Higher Education Unit was blocked, it was agreed that such a group was essential to provide advice and consultancy services to member governments.

Sir Keith confirms tenure legislation

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, confirmed this week that the Government will introduce legislation to limit the nature of tenure for future academic appointments in the universities.

In a written Commons answer Sir Keith said that in the light of a reply to him by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, when they had been asked to consider changes in Government would introduce legislation to limit the nature of tenure for future academic appointments in the universities.



Union fights union for a place in the TUC's second XI

Higher education's two top union officials are locked in a battle for a place on the trade union movement's highest policy-making body.

The general secretaries of the university teachers' union and the college lecturers' union are among 28 hopefuls nominated for the contest to fill the 11 seats for unions with fewer than 100,000 members on the TUC general council.

It is the first time the two unions have met in such a public struggle, and the chances of both being successful are negligible.

Ms Diana Warwick, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, tried unsuccessfully last year only months after taking the top job in the union. Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, tried in 1981 - his appearance on a right-wing state provoking a crisis

within his delegation. There have been no such internal controversies this year. Ms Warwick's intention to try again was made clear immediately she tasted certain defeat last year. Highly informal approaches to Naffie to sound out whether it would support her this year were rebuffed, with the public sector union committed in principle by its executive to contest the election itself.

Last year too Naffie declined to support Ms Warwick, making clear that in the first round of elections under the new system which gives automatic seats to the big unions and a scramble for the 11 reserved seats for the rest it would back the incumbents.

All 11 elected last year are seeking re-election and the pre-congress manoeuvring is yet to start in earnest. Voting is at the congress in Brighton early next month.

Vice chancellors face pay crisis on both fronts

by David Jobbins

Union leaders this week firmly rejected an improved 4.75 per cent pay offer to university lecturers which vice chancellors regard as their final word. And the Treasury has stamped on appeals from the vice chancellors for Government aid to help the universities pay a 6.9 per cent two-stage award for National Health Service doctors and dentists to 3,000 clinical academics.

The Government, which is making 80 per cent of the difference between the 3 per cent cash limit and the award available to the NHS, has previously given similar help to the universities from the contingency reserves. This year, Treasury ministers have said the universities should find the money to fund the award from their own resources, rebuffing a request from the vice chancellors which had the support of education ministers.

This new financial crisis facing the universities will be considered by vice chancellors at their key meeting on September 22, when they will have to decide between breaching the principle of parity between the clinicals and NHS staff established in 1968 by the Prices and Incomes Board and possibly asking universities without medical schools to subsidise those which have them.

This week's meeting of Committee A was acrimonious, with the Association of University Teachers negotiators angry that the vice chancellors were not prepared to move further towards meeting their demands for protection from the effects of inflation, erosion of salary levels, and improvements in salary structure.

The employers offered 4.75 per cent across the board after failing to sell a package offering 4.25 for all except some 15,000 on the top of each main scale and on the professional average who would receive 5 per cent.

London polys face new £1m cuts

by Karen Gold

Inner London's five polytechnics could lose £1m each from their 1985/86 budgets under contingency spending plans for the rate-capped Inner London Education Authority.

The authority this week published details of how it would make the £75m cuts needed to meet the spending target of £900m imposed on it by the Government for 1985/86.

Further and higher education's share would be £15m, £7m of which would come off the current £15m toppling-up which the capital's polytechnics and colleges received.

More than 300 teaching and 250 non-teaching posts in further and higher education would go, according to the paper which lists the authority's spending priorities as well as its projected cuts. Fifty thousand copies, at a cost of £10,000 will be sent out across London in the autumn.

The Merchant Navy College at Greenwich, which lost its advanced work in the National Advisory Body

1984/85 planning exercise, would close after two years, saving £300,000.

The rest of the cuts would be made in equipment and buildings, reducing non-advanced courses and support for the Youth Training Scheme in colleges, and discretionary student grants.

Adult education would be even harder hit, with compulsory redundancies among part-time staff, and more than 1,000 full and part-time jobs to go. Fees would increase, including a rise in the concessionary fee to pensioners and the unemployed from £1 to £5.

The ILEA was one of three authorities among the 18 selected for rate-capping by the Government which will have their spending reduced by 1.5 per cent rather than just frozen in 1985/86.

The consultative document offers Londoners two options: compliance with the Government's expenditure limit and all the listed cuts, or making an ILEA budget which would include some savings but also implement some new developments.

The savings, which mean 5,300 jobs would go across the authority, were drawn up by the education offices as those which could be implemented in a year, and which would be less damaging to the education service, according to Mr Steve Bundred, chairman of the ILEA financed subcommittee.

He expected the outcome of the consultations to be massive protests to the Government and did not rule out breaking the law to oppose such cuts. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has announced the arrangement for a directly elected ILEA when the metropolitan authorities are abolished in 1986. It will have 58 members, two from each parliamentary constituency.

But the Boundary Commission is to draw up single member constituencies for subsequent elections. For the first three years, the Government will be able to determine the authority's budget, rates and numbers of employees. The authority will also be subject to a statutory review, not later than March 1991.



The history of Labour's decline, 14

Letters to the editor

The transfer of trainee teachers

Sir - You reported on July 13 that the Polytechnic Council for the Education of Teachers is concerned about the effect on the structure of BED courses, of last year's Department of Education and Science Circular relating to the approval of teacher training courses. "We are not prepared to distort course structure to facilitate transfer to another course without loss of time. Neither would we expect our colleagues responsible for other courses to do so."

The PCET may be interested to learn that a number of successful BED courses have been approved by the Council for National Academic Awards with structures which specifically facilitate transfer to another course without loss of time (in most cases using the 2 + 2 model where a

DipHE forms the first cycle). These courses have been planned, not to provide an "escape route" for "professionally inadequate" students, but to allow a real measure of choice to students on their degree pathway/decision on their career choice until they have had an opportunity to experience a variety of subject and professional studies.

Nevertheless, such courses would also be capable of providing for academically successful students who either find they are (or who are found to be) unsuited to teaching by the time they reach the later stages of their BED course. There are in fact a number of possible structures capable of providing considerably more flexibility than the PCET appears to believe is possible, and there are sound educational

reasons for exploiting them to the full rather than expecting 18-year-olds to undertake four years of specialist professional training only to be advised to transfer to another course for a further two years, if they then find they do not wish to teach.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA COOPER,
Council for National Academic Awards,
344-354 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

Sir - There is some odd, and perhaps rather panicky, logic in the Polytechnic Council for the Education of Teachers' views on the transfer of students from BED to BA courses. Surely the academics worried about the effects of an early "escape route" (itself a term indicating some ambivalence about the

merits of life within the "professional" compound) should be those receiving the escapes not those who have to let them go.

Almost a decade of experience on the Oxford Polytechnic modular course suggests that this is not a significant problem, and indeed enables the chance of completion by the "escaping" students, with considerable savings to their financial sponsors. The tutors of these students, and of those who go on to train as teachers are puzzled, and even offended, by the unsubtle and defensive antithesis of professionally orientated practice and "straight academic work".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WATSON,
Dean, Modular Course,
Oxford Polytechnic.

Support where support is due

Sir - The admirable warning of protest concerning the threat to the Open University (THES July 13) deserves urgent support from all genuine educationalists.

The OU was the best institution to perform a temporary task, but in developing service, which it performs with especial benefit to mature students of the quality I was used to at Birkbeck College (a resource made them geographically cannot reach).

I have followed the cross-disciplinary work of a friend through a foundation course; as an education one would almost regard it as a waste of a degree. My wife and I ourselves contributing to a course found further reason to appreciate the OU's high standards and receptiveness to innovation. I should be happy to join with others in its defence.

Yours sincerely,
HAROLD F. BROOKS,
Emeritus Professor of English Literature,
University of London.

That'll do nicely

Sir - At the end of a dispiritingly passed in wondering how to put the timetable to accommodate the loss of around 128 students with all eight academic staff, it was a relief to read in your column details of the Butcher Report (Information Technology Skills Survey (THES, July 27). I noted with increasing gratification that "Industry is ready to supply to executives as visiting professors to help with the supply of lecturers..." and will also "... provide consultancy and employment opportunities for academics to enable them to increase their earnings."

I don't wish to appear greedy, but the time being, one visiting professor and a couple of lecturers will satisfy immediate problems, though it might need more if the Department of Education and Science and the University Grants Committee actually allowed us to recruit more students. As for the expensive experiment, our needs are modest - say two VAX 11/780s will keep us happy to be going on with. (At least then students won't have to come between midnight and the start of lectures to get the course material.) Perhaps Mr. Butcher could invite the industrialists to get in touch with me on 0703 559122, extension 2386.

Yours faithfully,
D. W. BARRON,
Department of Computer Studies,
University of Southampton.

Sir - Do you think Laurie Taylor's column is like a good Bordeaux? After three or four years in cash and bonds, the pieces come to a rounded maturity with plenty of colour and that essential "bite", but having lost the sparkle on its first appearance. (1980 was a good vintage, don't you think?)

Yours sincerely,
TONY BELL,
General Secretary,
Institute of Linguists, London NS.

Easing shortages

Sir - Subject: your front page item of July 20 entitled "Demonstration and ease polytechnic shortages".

It may be of interest to your readers to know that demonstrators do in fact ease polytechnic shortages, and have done so in the faculty of art and design at Sunderland since 1977.

B. E. HIRST,
Dean of Faculty of Art and Design,
Sunderland Polytechnic.

Letters for publication should arrive by Tuesday morning. They should be as short as possible and written on one side of the paper. The editor reserves the right to cut or amend them.

Message for the sponsors

Financial support to students by employers without a reduction in grant has been more than doubled from £540 a year to £1,200 a year. Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, has announced. For students under the National Engineering Scholarship scheme (the increase is from £950 to £1,500). Sponsored students can now receive a total of £1,600 (£1,900 for NEESS students) from all sources before their grant is affected. More than 10,000 students were sponsored by employers last year, over a quarter of them on engineering courses.

The reconstituted social work training council aims to create a single unified system of qualifications in the discipline even though many university academics are worried about how any merger of courses can be made to work.

After two half-day seminars taking stock of the long-running debate over the system of qualifications in the discipline, the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, down from 65 to 26 new members, has just called for a new options paper on how to produce a unified system.

This amounts to a step back from the position reached at the former council's last meeting in December, when a controversial pink paper produced by a working party under Professor Phyllida Parson of Bristol University recommending a new two-tier training system, was discussed.

The council will now consider a new paper, prepared by officers and the chairman, Miss Joan Cooper, in the autumn, arranging consultations with all interested parties and drawing up a timetable eventually leading to a single social work training system.

The review of training was originally started in 1982 following widespread dissatisfaction among those with Certificate of Social Service awards, mainly taken in polytechnics and colleges, over apparently poor promotion prospects and low status compared to Certificate of Qualification in Social Work qualifications, mainly from universities.

There was also concern that courses devised in the early 1970s were less appropriate in the austerity of the 1980s, and many employers felt the CSS-COSW distinction was inflexible and the COSW courses did not quite produce the kind of social workers they wanted.

University academics, however, are still concerned about the implications for validation; lowering of entry requirements and encroaching employer influence, which could result from a course merger, though they welcome the council's decision to allow further debate.

The Standing Conference of Heads of COSW courses is to prepare a detailed statement of its position in the autumn. Mr Bernard Davis, Warwick University, convener of the group, said there was still concern that courses might become too narrowly vocational losing current emphasis on teaching "critical understanding". Professor Robert Pinker of the London School of Economics said he now looked forward to "a genuine debate".



Herr Klaus Saur (left) shows a copy of the microfilm archive to (from left) Michael Holroyd, writer, Laureen Bailie, managing editor of the project, and writer Claire Tomalin.

Efficiency study prompts concern

by Ngalo Crequer

University teachers claimed this week that the efficiency studies to be carried out at six universities, under the leadership of Sir Alex Jarratt, threatened to intrude into academic areas.

They said that at a recent meeting between the steering group and unions, Sir Alex had said the studies would include examination of the internal government and decision-making policies of the universities.

Although Sir Alex had pointed out that academic judgments and policies were specifically excluded from the terms of reference, the group would look at the processes of government - how things were done - but not the actual decision. The structures of university government, the chain of command and to the academic input to decision making would be examined.

Ms Diana Warwick, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers said: "We will be urging our local associations to be extremely vigilant in ensuring that the steering group does not overstep that line. We would also be most concerned to be involved in any discussions about the nature of the line."

At the meeting, the non teaching unions urged that the inquiries be sweeping, looking at academic areas and also the poor pay of some of their members. They were also concerned that the exercise might turn into a vehicle for further cuts and privatization.

Sir Alex said they intended objectivity and were not creatures of the Government.

The six universities, Edinburgh, Essex, University College, London, Loughborough, Nottingham and Sheffield, will each appoint a study officer to be in charge of the inquiries. She or he will be assisted by a consultancy team, chosen by tender. A particular topic, such as purchasing policies or maintenance, will be studied at each university. Each topic will be studied by two universities.

The inquiries will last about three months. The steering group will draw general conclusions on them and report to the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals no later than March, 1985.

Sir Alex, chairman of the steering group said: "The terms of reference make it absolutely clear that they are not to concern themselves with matters of academic policy, procedures or judgments."

"However, the committee is fully aware that there will be occasions where judgment will have to be exercised as to where the line should be drawn between those protected areas and their investigation into the effectiveness of universities' management."

The minimum disruption for 1985/86. In return this implied a joint relationship and one which allowed both sides to put MSC support in context with other plans for work-related NAFE.

"It seems to me to be a common feature of both our positions. It is therefore surprising that much is now being made of this point. If there is a misunderstanding, which I doubt, let us talk about it and clear it up," Mr Young writes.

But in fact the letter written to Mr Geoffrey Holland, director of the MSC, by Mr Gordon Cunningham, ACC education secretary did not offer the MSC control of all of NAFE. It merely said that if the money was returned to local authorities, then the commission would be given a formal guarantee of involvement in local authority planning of future programmes for NAFE where the MSC would be a major customer.

Mr Young has now written to Mr Philip Merridale, ACC education chairman, expressing surprise at the association's reaction, on the grounds that the suggestion for the commission's involvement in all of NAFE had originated from the ACC itself in June.

He points out that the MSC was simply taking this offer up in its own proposals for the implementation of the White Paper aimed at achieving

An A to Z of who was who . . .

by Paul Flather

The biographies of every famous British figure, from Beowulf and King Alfred to the late Nancy Astor and Sir Winston Churchill, have been taken from 324 key and sometimes rare reference books and included in a single alphabetical archive.

The first instalment of the new British Biographical Archive in microfiche form, compiled from English language reference works originally published between 1601 and 1929, was launched in London last week.

It begins with a series of entries under Saint Aaron and by the time the twelfth instalment appears in 1987, with its final entry for Arthur Zeeley, a nineteenth century governor-general of Rhodesia, the archive will run to 300,000 entries.

It is being published by Herr Klaus Saur, whose companies, based in Munich, New York, Paris, and London, have specialized in producing the kind of enormous reference works that most other publishers shy away from because of the low profit margin.

Some £250,000 has been invested in the project, already welcomed by scholars, including Mr Michael Foot, who said it would be of "immense benefit". Lord Asa Briggs, who deemed it a "landmark occasion", and Professor A. L. Rowse, who described it as the most notable publication in the field since the 1885 first publication of the Dictionary of National Biography.

Two important editorial decisions have been taken by Mr Paul Sievek, the archive editor, and his team: they have sought to redress the past bias against female entries and they have interpreted British in the widest sense to include colonial figures wherever possible.

The uses of the archive can be judged by the entry on a single figure such as Joseph Addison (1672-1719), poet, essayist, statesman, wit and man of letters, friend of Pope, Swift, and Defoe: his entry comes from 38 sources ranging from Jacob's *Poetical Register* (1723) to Low's *Dictionary of English History* (1910) and illustrates his developing reputation over the centuries.

Kaur is already responsible for the *British Library Catalogue of Printed Books* to 1975, which the British Library has touted unsuccessfully round publishing houses until Kaur appeared, the *Catalogue of Printed Music in the British Library Catalogue of Printed Books* 1976/82.

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Royal Society appeals for right to copy journals

The Royal Society has made a strong plea for retention of the right to make single copies of research journals in any revision of copyright law.

The society's physical secretary, Professor Roger Elliott, has written to Mr Alexander Fletcher, under secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry, saying that scientists are very worried about moves to weaken "fair dealing" in photocopying. He says restrictions on the making of single copies of scientific articles would greatly damage the scientific community.

Professor Elliott's letter is supported by other leading scientific societies as well as the four natural science research councils and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. He points out that the Royal Society, in common with other learned societies, is a major publisher, but sees "no evidence that single copying of articles in primary scientific journals in any way damages publishers' incomes."

The Royal Society supports the proposals for a voluntary licensing scheme to be run by the Copyright Licensing Agency which has been set up by publishers and authors. But it is strongly opposed to such licensing covering single copying. This should neither incur a royalty payment nor need recording, Professor Elliott says.

Negotiations between the CVP and the licensing agency on the scheme have broken down because of the agency's repeated attempts to reserve the right to take action on single copying. Some publishers insist that the fair dealing clause in the existing 1956 Copyright Act does not cover single copying.

The Royal Society letter was sent to the Department of Trade and Industry rather than the Home Office, which normally takes the lead on copyright, because the DTI is handling the future of scientific and technical information.

Last week, a DTI response to a report from the Cabinet Office's Information Technology Advisory Panel announced that Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, will now be responsible for coordinating Government policy on commercialization of information.

The rest of the formal response will disappoint the authors of the Cabinet Office report on *Making a Business of Information*, who wanted Government backing for new database software and moves to develop a coherent information policy. Most of the report's specific proposals are ignored or rejected, including an information policy research unit funded by the research councils and an Information Year campaign on the lines of IT year in 1982.

The response says that copyright reform will be brought forward as soon as possible, but gives no indication when this may happen, although the

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Labour MPs support WEA

A series of attacks on the Government over cuts in grant to the Workers' Educational Association have been launched by Labour MPs.

More than 40 of them also put their names to an early day motion urging Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to rethink his whole policy on adult and continuing education.

The motion expressed grave concern at the Government's present policy and regrets that plans to cut grants to the major providers, the WEA, and the extra mural departments, have emerged at a time when

expenditure should be increased to meet demand.

It goes on to suggest Sir Keith should reassess adult education policy to take account of the need for adults to use longer periods of leisure to extend their knowledge and skills.

Condemning the cuts in grant, Mr Giles Radice MP, opposition spokesman on education, referred to the WEA's long record of organizing good, well supported courses. "The cuts threaten that record. And the association's innovative work in the inner cities and amongst women and the unemployed are under threat."

Pharmacy hopes dashed by UGC

The University Grants Committee has dashed hopes of a reprieve for Heriot-Watt University's pharmacy department by saying next session's student intake must be its last.

The UGC has told Heriot-Watt to axe the department in 1989, and is not

to fund the transfer of pharmacy to the university's proposed single site campus.

Heriot-Watt's principal, Dr Tom Johnston, said: "We certainly do not regard this as the final word in the matter."

Mr Young has now written to Mr Philip Merridale, ACC education chairman, expressing surprise at the association's reaction, on the grounds that the suggestion for the commission's involvement in all of NAFE had originated from the ACC itself in June.

He points out that the MSC was simply taking this offer up in its own proposals for the implementation of the White Paper aimed at achieving

the minimum disruption for 1985/86. In return this implied a joint relationship and one which allowed both sides to put MSC support in context with other plans for work-related NAFE.

"It seems to me to be a common feature of both our positions. It is therefore surprising that much is now being made of this point. If there is a misunderstanding, which I doubt, let us talk about it and clear it up," Mr Young writes.

But in fact the letter written to Mr Geoffrey Holland, director of the MSC, by Mr Gordon Cunningham, ACC education secretary did not offer the MSC control of all of NAFE. It merely said that if the money was returned to local authorities, then the commission would be given a formal guarantee of involvement in local authority planning of future programmes for NAFE where the MSC would be a major customer.

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the minimum disruption for 1985/86. In return this implied a joint relationship and one which allowed both sides to put MSC support in context with other plans for work-related NAFE.

Primary practice

Sir - I hope you will allow me to comment on your report of July 13, headed "Chelmer gets a clean bill". This referred essentially to HMI inspection of this institute's new BED. The support given to us by HMI as noted in your report is most encouraging. However, I would like to point out to the bias towards secondary training does not accurately reflect HMI comment. There was no general criticism of insufficient primary practice in the new course. How could there be? Even as originally planned, students for the 5 to 11 age range were to complete 20 weeks of block practice and a further 61 half days in primary schools. This group were to spend only five half days in secondary schools.

It is true that students for the 9 to 13 age range had the opportunity to spend more time in secondary experience. Even then their compulsory maximum in that area would have been five weeks (out of 20) block practice and 21 half days (out of 60) intermittent practice.

Nor is it correct that Mr Lewis was told his "involvement with the OU was merely a means to easing life in prison". As education officer at HM Prison Wandsworth during the time of Mr Lewis' imprisonment, I know he was told everything would be done in an attempt to enable him to sit OU examinations at Wandsworth, even though such an arrangement would lie outside both Home Office and Open University policies. And indeed the OU's London counselling service at the Home Office had to make special arrangements for Mr Lewis to sit examinations at Wandsworth.

Mr Lewis might have pointed out in his letter that the function of Wandsworth is not the making of ad hoc special arrangements upon demand from individual inmates, but the allocation of recently-sentenced prisoners to establishments where permanently organized facilities for OU

Prison study

Sir - The letter written by Edward Lewis on changing prison attitudes (THES, July 6) contains several statements which are either naive or incorrect.

As a former inmate of HM Prison Wandsworth, Mr Lewis should know as well as anybody that the joint Home Office-Open University scheme precludes the teaching and examination of OU courses in non-association allocation prisons. It was not the "uniformed and administrative staff" at Wandsworth who "blocked" Mr Lewis' OU studies, but joint Home Office and Open University policy. As far as Wandsworth is concerned, that policy is well-founded upon the impracticability of running long-term, audiovisual courses in a short-stay, non-association establishment where television and tape recorders are not permitted.

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Education in prison: a life-enhancing experience

study, sporting activities, vocational training, and the like, exist. In Mr Lewis' case, he was allocated from Wandsworth in the normal way to HM Prison Ford where the Open University maintains an examination centre and tutorial facilities.

If Mr Lewis is genuinely interested in improving prison education in the wake of the Government's limited response to recommendations on prisoner education made by the Prison Education Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts, he would not have misrepresented conditions of general education at Wandsworth as "a soft option". The prison education service need to build from a position of strength, the strength of large maximum-security establishments such as Wandsworth being that education is seen by both uniformed and administrative staff not as a soft

option but as one of the few life-enhancing experiences open to prison inmates. Prisoners, and ex-prisoners, who make unjustifiable claims upon the system, or who misrepresent facts from a self-centred viewpoint, do little except undermine in the minds of members of the Government efforts being made by the "uniformed and administrative staffs" to improve the quality of life in prison.

If Mr Lewis thinks an improvement in prison education will be brought about by changing staff attitudes, then he should be aware it is the practice of uniformed and civilian staff to treat all prisoners equally - OU student or not.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM INNES-BROWN,
Department of Educational Policy and Administrative Studies, University of Calgary, Alta., Canada.

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Sociobiology

Sir - On June 22 *The THES* reported Sir Edmund Leach's comments on my book, *Human Nature and Biocultural Evolution* (Allen & Unwin, 1984).

"The spite of bad books about human sociobiology," Leach states in his opening salvo, "shows no sign of abating. Although the author of this one quotes from Emil Durkheim and Vilfredo Pareto, the voice and the argument come straight from the pages of E. O. Wilson."

The facts are quite different. Durkheim's work is central in my book; chapter 8 even presumes to complement Durkheim's theory of religion by considering the cultural evolution that might have been necessary to justify his famous equation of god and society. Important, too, are such scholars as

DON'S DIARY

SATURDAY and SUNDAY

During the first three days of next week, I shall be at the University of Guelph, about 60 miles from St Catharines, attending meetings of a national association within the framework of the Canadian Learned Societies Conference, of which more later. Normally, when my departure to an academic conference is imminent, afflicted by a vague sense of guilt at deserting my wife and children, for however short a time, I do odd jobs around the house, mow the lawn, edge borders and so on, in mild expiation.

Not this weekend, however. The Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Championships are being held in St Catharines on these two days, and my older son is to compete in an eight and a coxed four. On Saturday, the heats take place and my son's two boats - he is stroke of both - qualify for the finals.

MONDAY

The Canadian Learned Societies Conference takes place each year at the end of May and during the first couple of weeks in June. It is a major academic jamboree and brings together from across the country at a designated university campus members of around 60 associations of higher learning, all from the humanities and social sciences. I am to attend three of the four scheduled days of meetings of the Association of Canadian University and College Teachers of French, to the cause of which I am pretty committed, having undergone the ordeal by fire during the early 1970s, of serving for two and a half years as its secretary-treasurer. My principal reason for attending this year's conference is to read papers in sessions commemorating the bicentenary of the death of Diderot, whom I revere above almost every other French author.

The Diderot sessions do not begin until after lunch and I have a choice between simultaneous sessions on *Colette*, *Communication Libres* and *Diderot des langues*. I opt for Colette.

After lunch, a hitch in the programme. A colleague due to give one of this afternoon's papers on Diderot, while driving from Saskatchewan, has experienced car trouble at Thunder Bay which, although in Ontario, is a very long way indeed from Guelph. The programme is reshuffled to accommodate this setback, not to my personal satisfaction, I'm afraid.

TUESDAY

I wake up 20 minutes before my 7 am wake-up call. There must be some substance to all those theories about biological clocks. My paper is scheduled first in the morning session. I have read some 15 papers at conferences in the past dozen years, but I still feel nervous before the event. Perhaps a small element of stage fright is necessary to effective delivery. My subject is *Diderot et la sexualité*. I make no particular claim to expertise on either Diderot or sexuality, but I have been reading Diderot for nearly 30 years, with mounting astonishment at the modernity of his insights, and he certainly has some staggering things to say about sexual activity. The paper seems to be appreciated and some stimulating questions are raised and comments made in the discussion period that follows. I listen to Diderot papers for the rest of the morning.

I attend (part of) the association's business meeting in the afternoon. After two and a half hours, during

which time less than half the agenda is completed, I slip out. As I grow older, my attention span seems to diminish, or is it just that I am becoming more selective over the matters upon which I focus my attention? The latter, I hope.

In the evening, the association's banquet, held in a local restaurant. Food very ordinary, but company enjoyable. I sit next to a very entertaining Québécois. Despite onerous duties at a post-secondary college in Montreal, she has published a novel, a volume of poems and a critical work on the important French-Canadian writer, Anne Hébert.

She recounts the extremely depressing plot of her second novel, which is nearly finished. I ask her why Canadian writing in French appears to be characterized by unmitigated gloom and remark that I find it difficult to reconcile the sombre orientation of her work with her extrovert and cheerful personality. *C'est que les gens de chez nous sont comme ça.*

WEDNESDAY

The last Diderot session this morning. Having read my own paper, I no longer feel under pressure. I hear three papers and intervene, I hope in a generous and constructive way, in the discussion following two of them. I have lunch with the last speaker. She teaches psychology at a large American university and has looked at certain texts of Diderot from a very different, and interesting, perspective. We are joined by a colleague from my own university. They are both Jews and he has her rocking with laughter by telling her stories in Yiddish. I am surprised that my elementary knowledge of German enables me to grasp the gist of them but she, in any case, very charmingly translates them into French for me.

In the afternoon, I play the field by attending papers on a seventeenth-century French missionary in Canada, the poet Théophile de Viau and Saint-Evremond, the last, which seems to me to be very sound, delivered by my department colleague mentioned above. Having given him proper moral support, I duck out before the discussion period, as I am now pressed to get back to Niagara to give my evening class. It is the end of the conference for me.

On my arrival in St Catharines, my long-suffering wife produces a meal a little more than a minute's notice. I then drive to Welland to meet my class for the second three-hour session of the week. Since nearly a fifth of the population of Welland is French-speaking, it is not surprising that 11 out of 12 students enrolled in the course are francophones. My course is being offered off-campus, in Welland's French high school, at the request of the francophone community. All the students enrolled in the course are teachers upgrading their qualifications - the declared aim of the Ontario government is an all-graduate teaching profession before the end of this decade - and are thus activated by one of the strongest of all motivations: money.

THURSDAY and FRIDAY

Conferences are not only work in themselves, they also generate work. I write a couple of bread and butter letters and send copies of my paper to colleagues who asked for it during the meetings; there are few requests also interview a student with a problem - meeting students outside the lecture room is one of the more agreeable duties of being coordinator of French in a department of romance studies. A book has arrived from England for review. From the end of April until the end of August, I normally work at home in the mornings, at the university in the afternoons. I thus have two desks to keep tidy, one in my study, one in my office. A lot of paper that seemed urgent a month or so ago has now lost all significance and is consigned to the bin. I start to read my students' explanations of texts and am impressed by their quality. I also mutter the words of Charlemagne at the end of the *Song of Roland*: *Deus se penes est malicia*. But I don't really mean it.

Michael Cardy

The author is associate professor of French at Brock University.

Forecasts reveal cuts threat

by Karen Gold

Polytechnics and colleges face further cuts in their funding per student next year, following the discovery that they expect to have almost 10,000 more students than predicted.

Student number targets for individual institutions in 1985/86 are to be sent out for consultation by the National Advisory Body at the end of this month. But the provisional estimates supplied by institutions on which those targets are based show an unexpected extra 9,885 full-time equivalent students: 3.75 per cent up on the original projection.

The consultation will be on a series of hard decisions that the NAB will have to make in the autumn. Unless the advanced further education pool is increased by more than the level of inflation, the NAB will have to decide whether or not to fund any extra students institutions take, and if so how.

Unless there is additional money in the pool, increased numbers will inevitably mean a reduced unit of resource.

FCS faces split in the ranks

by David Jobbins

Long-established internal divisions among Conservative students are reopening as the strife within the Nation Organization of Labour Students this week reached a new peak. The new right-wing leadership of the Federation of Conservative Students has fulfilled one of its election pledges by stepping up its campaign against automatic membership of the National Union of Students.

A motion demanding abolition of the NUS "closed shop" is one of several hard-line demands tabled by the FCS national committee for the Conservative party's conference in October. It is highly unlikely to be debated, largely because party business managers are aware that it would be further embarrassment to Sir Keith Joseph, secretary of state for education and science, who last year suffered a rough ride at the Tory conference and was forced to admit that automatic membership was not feasible.

Its significance is greater in that it preempts a debate at FCS's half-yearly council next month on a compromise package seeking a middle ground between the extremes of slavish involvement in NUS and the campaign for its destruction.

Although the demands, which also include denationalization of the mining industry, privatization of the health service, the ending of separate government for Northern Ireland, and freezing of student grants at their present levels, stand in the name of the national committee and largely square with established policy, there is understood to be dissent among the more moderate faction within FCS.

They feel that the higher profile given to the anti-NUS campaign runs counter to the views of the party leadership, who have indicated publicly that Conservative students should endeavour to play a full part not only in their unions but in the NUS as well. Meanwhile, militant leaders in the National Organization of Labour Students have been summoned to give evidence to the inquiry into the disruption of the organization's Easter conference.

Two sessions are scheduled, one for Tuesday and the second for August 12. Those asked to attend have been told they will be expected to answer questions about events at the conference, which was abandoned amid scenes of chaos.

Bedford-Holloway principalship to be advertised

The principalship for the merging Bedford and Royal Holloway colleges, London University, is to be publicly advertised.

This was the decision of the working party of the two college councils, chaired by Lord Allen, despite strong support for consideration of internal candidates.

Professor Dorothy Wedderburn, principal of Bedford, is certain to apply, unlike her Holloway counterpart, Dr Roy Millar. The job will be

source. The decision for the NAB is whether to penalize institutions that recruit extra students by not paying for them, or to pay for the increase by a cut across the board.

The recommendation from the NAB secretariat, which will send out the consultative targets, is to treat institutions differently depending on the reasons for their extra numbers. There are three major reasons.

First, the recent discovery that recruitment in 1983/84 was higher than expected meant that those additional students will still be on courses in 1985/86, so that 1985/86 first year recruitment would have to be cut significantly to compensate for them.

Second, there were mistakes in the NAB calculations, largely clerical errors, which account for difference between their predictions and those by institutions.

Third, accounting for the largest increase in numbers, there are shifts in institutional plans, some without NAB approval and some without it, in changes between subject areas, lower

wastage rates, and additional once NAB officers say that extra recruitment of errors should be paid, but that changes in plan are unacceptable.

The board is invited to ask secretariat to examine these variations on their merits, report accordingly in due course, but approach them with a caution about an awareness of the resource implications. The officers report says it must be the case that the assumption should be that growth for growth should be rejected.

The exception to that principle would be in NAB priority areas. The figures also show that the areas of unauthorized growth are in the directions NAB wants to encourage.

When the NAB board considers these figures and comments on them will also consider a recommendation by its technical and data group that 1985/86 advanced further education pool should be distributed on the principles as the 1984/85 one.

UGC invites builders to discuss shortage

by Ngaio Crequer

Industrialists and academics have been invited to a University Grants Committee meeting in September because of the concern they have expressed over building degree courses.

During the last year the UGC technology subcommittee has received a lot of letters from individuals and organizations protesting at what they say is a serious reduction in the number of building and related subject courses.

In May the committee wrote to the relevant universities to ask for up to date information. "It has been suggested that on the one hand building is rapidly disappearing as a university subject, and on the other hand that there will be an increasing demand by industry for graduates for these disciplines."

They said building had suffered disproportionately because of its status as a discipline.

Game for a taste of power

Sixty educationists from North America and the UK spent last week discussing how to set up a new institute of advanced technology in a mythical country called Chelt.

Chelt is a western-style democracy with a population of 26 million, creeping unemployment, a refugee problem, national service, major oil reserves and four Olympic gold medals in the national sport of muggleball. The task of the conference was to plan five new advanced technology campuses in the various regions in order to revive Chelt's flagging economy.

The participants who were at a conference in Manchester were split into five multinational groups that had to devise policies for their regions taking into account both regional and national needs. The groups bargained over which campus should run specialized courses and sent delegates to the National Assembly to work out policies for the National Institute.

The Chelt Experience, as the game is called, was devised over a number of months by senior staff from Nelson and Colne College in Lancashire, Dallas County Community College and Humboldt College in Toronto.

The participants insisted that while it might be fun, Chelt was not frivolous. Nancy Reid, the British organizer and staff development officer at Nelson Colne said that at a



conventional international educational conference, "you will realize in your own corner, hotly debating and justifying what you are doing."

Just how much the participants had identified with Chelt's problems was illustrated by the group setting up a campus in Prince, a province with a second language. The Prince delegation found they had no little in common with policies produced by the other groups that on one occasion they had walked out.

Scottish review group accused of bias

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

The new Scottish Tertiary Education Advisory Council, which is to carry out a review of higher education, held its first meeting this week amid accusations of bias and unrepresentativeness.

Only four of the nine-strong council are educationists: Dr Tom Bone, principal of Jordanhill College of Education, who is vice chairman; Sir Alwyn Williams, principal of Glasgow University; Dr Ethel Gray, former principal of Craigie College of Education, and Dr Harry Cumming, principal of Dundee College of Technology.

The other members are from industry, accountancy and law, with Mr Donald McCallum, director and general manager of Ferranti, as chairman. Mr John Pollock, general secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland and a member of the former

Council for Tertiary Education in Scotland which STEAC replaces, said he did not think there had been a devious plot to set up a very right-wing, elitist group.

"But it is absolutely appalling that the Government is so naive about the whole question of industrial relations and matters relating to education that it thinks this is a single trade union, and not even a director of education."

Mr George Livingstone, chairman of the Association of Lecturers in Colleges of Education in Scotland, said the council was an establishment group set up by a government with a narrow view of education as investment rather than considering an individual's right to education.

Mr Alan Smart, president of the National Union of Students (Scotland), said he was disturbed by the minority of educationists on the panel. "The membership shows the vocational bias of the Government's overall strategy for education."

Mr Smart also criticized the lack of any representative from further education. The council's remit is to review the future strategy for higher education, but Mr Smart said there were inescapable links between further and higher education. NUS would be making a broad submission to the council covering all post-school education, he added.

Universities had been excluded from the remit of the former tertiary council, said Mr Pollock, but despite this there had been university representation on the council, very strongly influencing the decisions being made.

Excluding non-advanced further education membership from STEAC had done immense damage to the concept beginning to develop from the government's Action Plan, that barriers between institutions were breaking down, he added.

This was reinforcing the present divisions, and it was quite wrong that the council should completely ignore those educationists who catered for more than half the population.

However, Mr Pollock said: "If I had to take three of the most distinguished educationists in Scotland, I would choose Sir Alwyn, Dr Bone and Dr Gray. I think they are absolutely outstanding, and to some extent they will cover up the areas which have been neglected because their interests in education are so broad."

But Mr Livingstone said: "These people are all very busy, and I wonder how on earth they can find time to carry out their council duties effectively."

The other STEAC members are: Mr Norman Biggart, former president of the Law Society in Scotland; Mr Aubrey Harper, former technical director of the Nobel Explosives Company; Mr Duncan MacLeod, partner in a Glasgow chartered accountants firm; and Mr Allan Smith, managing director with Babcock Power.

Remote sensing network backed

by Jon Tunney
Science Correspondent

The Government will back new steps to build a technical and administrative framework for remote sensing - including use of data from satellites for scientific and industrial observation.

In a reply to this year's report on the subject from the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology, the Department of Trade and Industry announced last week it will fund a national computer-based data network to transfer remote sensing images to users. The network, which may be modelled on the Science and Engineering Research Council's existing Starlink for astronomers, will be coordinated from the National Remote Sensing Centre at Farnborough.

In the related field of digital mapping, the reply agrees that the research and development budget of the national Ordnance Survey should be increased, and that the survey should get a few more staff.

There will also be an inquiry into the use of geographic information in the UK, with terms of reference to be announced later by the Department of the Environment. This will consider how to coordinate use of maps, air and satellite images and other data.

Apart from map-making, use of remote sensing is increasing rapidly for crop and mineral surveys and cartography. Since the Lords committee reported, the government has announced it will pay 14 per cent of the £300m bill for the European remote sensing satellite ERS-1, due to be launched in 1989. This satellite will concentrate on coastal and ocean observation.

The new response to the Lords report agrees that the UK is well placed to develop techniques for processing and interpreting data from the new generation of remote sensing satellites. It says the Advisory Board for the Research Councils has invited the Natural Environment Research Council to set up a remote sensing science committee, with representatives from the Science and Engineering Research Council and the DTI.

On education and training, the Government rejects the committee's call for special treatment of remote sensing by the University Grants Committee and the National Advisory Body - it says it is for individual institutions to respond.

The Government says the NERC should take the lead in supporting postgraduate training in remote sensing, although the SERC will run information technology conversion courses which will include many of the data handling techniques which are relevant.

Dr Lew Hardy, a lecturer at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, is keeping a professional eye on the British men's gymnastics team at the Los Angeles Olympics. Dr Hardy, an experimental psychologist, has been acting as psychological consultant to the team throughout the build-up to the Games.

Most participants rated the scheme either as good or excellent and only 10 per cent found it only satisfactory. Again the majority would have been prepared to pay for the session which in their case had been free.

The major benefits achieved from the course were increased confidence, familiarization of keyboard, a clearer overall idea of computers and a better understanding of how to write a computer program.

The experience evenings achieved very positive results with 100 per cent of participants now feeling confident about operating modern machinery and computers at work. At the start of the experiment 80 per cent admitted that new technology and computers were a barrier.

Chimp talk
A St Andrews University psychology lecturer and his wife are this month beginning a study of communication of chimpanzees in the wild. Dr Richard and Mrs Jennifer Byrne are based at a small research centre in Western Tanzania, 15 hours by boat from the nearest road.

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Report backs Goldsmiths' QMC merger

by Felicity Jones

Goldsmiths' College has rejected the idea of achieving full school status within the University of London as a precondition for starting detailed merger talks with Queen Mary College.

A confidential preliminary report by a university joint planning committee working party to consider the college's application to become a school now in receipt of a court grant said it could take years before school status could be granted.

It said: "If seen as a precondition for entering upon the detailed negotiations recommended by the collaborative planning committee (of the two colleges), the process of achieving school status would delay rather than facilitate progress towards a merger."

The demands of statute 112 are time-consuming because it lays down that the senate has to satisfy itself on a range of matters from the constitutional through to student amenities and equipment.

But Dr Richard Hoggart, the retiring warden of Goldsmiths' College with the support of senior colleagues denied in an interim response that they are not holding out for school status but hoped it would happen simultaneously with the merger.

He cited the case of Chelsea College some years ago which was given effective school status well before the formal charter was granted.

Dr Hoggart says that talks should still be based on the assumption that "distinct and identifiable" university presences would still remain.

He welcomes the suggestion that an independent chairman drawn from among senior members of the university should preside over the merger talks and that even before discussions have been completed joint requests for the establishment of chairs and read the establishment should be sympathetically considered by the university.

The working party has put its money squarely behind the merger proposal as being in the best interests of Goldsmiths' College and has recommended that the merger committee should report back by May 1985.

Money from the Ministry, page 9

Experiment reduces fear of computers

Half of the participants in an experiment to persuade adults not to have a mental block about new technology and in particular computers would have preferred to attend their local further education college rather than a university, a survey shows.

The survey was conducted by Rhodes Flamefast, Manchester equipment manufacturer which arranged for a Salford University team to run a series of "experience" evenings last March for a number of its staff.

Fifty per cent of the employees would have preferred to attend their local FE college. 30 per cent would have attended either the university or the college and 20 per cent would have preferred the university.

The experience evenings achieved very positive results with 100 per cent of participants now feeling confident about operating modern machinery and computers at work. At the start of the experiment 80 per cent admitted that new technology and computers were a barrier.

Most participants rated the scheme either as good or excellent and only 10 per cent found it only satisfactory. Again the majority would have been prepared to pay for the session which in their case had been free.

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		Optional extra three fingered gripper	£18.00
Neptune 2 robot kit (inc. power supply)	£1725.00	BBC connector lead	£12.50
Neptune 2 control electronics (ready built)	£675.00	Commode VIC 20 connector lead and plug-in board	£14.50
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All prices are exclusive of VAT and valid until the end of 1984.

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Commode VIC 20 connector lead and plug-in board	£14.50
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Nuclear reactors may close

Pundits might also ponder directions for reaching the two major directly funded institutions: reach junction 14 on the M1, travelling north from Whitehall, and turn left for the OU or right for Cranfield.

Sir James distributed brown trout round the world, packed in ice swansdown bags taken from near the same source. Howletown still has the Rolls Royce fish hatcheries, the ones built by Sir James and supplied by spring water, which protects the fish from the daily temperature variations in the more usual river water.

Howletown produces salmon as well as has also developed a new strain of brown trout, funded by Ballantine's, the whisky distillers. Maitland would doubt heartily approve of the venture, that is, apart from the dried food pellets. Sir James's fish were from fillet, beef and eggs, horseflesh and scallops.

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هكذا في الأصل

At a time when most other men are putting their feet up against the fire and reflecting on the past, Dr Trevor Pearcey is keeping his working shoes on while he plans for the future.

When Dr Pearcey turned 65 earlier this year, he stepped down as head of the school of computing and information systems at Melbourne's Chisholm Institute of Technology and was immediately appointed foundation dean of a brand new faculty at the Institute.

From 1985, students in the technology disciplines will be offered a new concept in education: a faculty of technology that brings together the schools of applied science, engineering, and Dr Pearcey's old computing and information systems school. According to Dr Pearcey, the basic aim of amalgamating the three schools is to set up structures and programs which will prepare students "for the real technological world of today and give them an entrée to the world of tomorrow".

The latest developments in computer technology will be incorporated into new courses which will be set up on a "core plus specialist options" basis. "We will be softening the boundaries between disciplines in some respect to ensure our students get the sort of broad grounding they will need to cope with today's technological environment, and be prepared for the changes which will take place tomorrow," Dr Pearcey says.

"This means the training will be harder-edged if anything, in that it will reflect the real work environment of today's and tomorrow's chemists, biologists, mathematicians, computing personnel, and engineers."

Dr Pearcey has had a long experience with developing computers. He was one of the pioneers who built Australia's first computer, CSIRAC, in the early 1950s, and he has since earned a high reputation in comput-

In two special reports on high technology, we meet Dr Trevor Pearcey, the man in charge of a new concept in Australian tertiary education, and follow the American universities as they scramble to attract more industry on to their campuses

Will the computer see off the commuter?

ing circles. Chisholm's research and consultancy centre of computing was named after him, in recognition of his work.

Dr Pearcey believes that if Australia is to cope with the micro-chip revolution and remain competitive in world trade, there will need to be a massive expansion of higher education.

"We need to double the numbers of students enrolled in tertiary education," he says, echoing the sentiments of other educationists such as the vice chancellor of the University of New South Wales, Professor Michael Birt, and the minister for science, Mr Barry Jones, "both by increasing the undergraduate population and expanding the number of postgraduate courses."

At Chisholm, up to 14 short courses, involving some 800 students, are offered each semester - 28 courses a year, and most of them in computing fields. The profit these generate is put back into improving the Institute's computing equipment and this, in turn, attracts more students.

But can Australia afford a vast expansion of the most expensive sector of education - one which now absorbs some A\$2,000m annually? Yes, Dr Pearcey says firmly. But not by building new or enlarging present campuses. The solution, he says, is tele-learning: education at a distance.

Working from home, in contact with their institutions via a computer

terminal and Telecom, thousands more students could be enrolled without the need to double the present expenditure.

Dr Pearcey believes the basic technology for an interactive tele-learning system is already available and that it is only a matter of time before it becomes widely available.

"If, as I believe it will, tele-learning takes off, it will change the entire structure of tertiary education," he says. "There will need to be far greater cooperation between tertiary institutions so that students enrolled in one institution can draw upon information stored in another's computer."

He says the first step at Chisholm will be converting the internal telephone lines into a Fretzel or videotext system. In this system, information is stored in data bases and a list of what is available can be called up on a screen using a hand-held key pad. Dr Pearcey says a study of the idea is being made to show that it is workable, economical and educationally profitable.

But Trevor Pearcey also intends to put himself where his ideas are. He plans to set up his office at Dromana, 44 miles away on the shores of Port Phillip Bay. "We're building a house at Arthur's Seat (which overlooks Dromana) and my office will be connected to Chisholm via Telecom's Datel line," he says. "The office will be equipped with a microcomputer, colour monitor, a printer, and floppy disc drives."



Dr Trevor Pearcey: "Tele-learning will change the entire structure of tertiary education."

Dr Pearcey will then be able to tape into Chisholm's data base, dictate memos to his secretary, send messages and receive them from his colleagues and no doubt hold long-distance conferences via a "conference" telephone. He is certain it will be preferable to commuting. "If I was a student, I'd refuse to travel the distances some of them have to every day."

Eventually, Dr Pearcey believes, "technology villages" will spring up around Australia. Friends need no longer live far apart if they do not have to travel to different places of work every day. "People will be able to get together, build their own

communities, yet earn a living from home by being in contact with their workplaces via a computer and an optical fibre-based telephone system," he says.

Dr Pearcey has one problem to overcome, however. He has spent most of his life working behind the computer console, not in front of it. "I don't like using a keyboard and VDT particularly," he says. "I prefer to leave that sort of thing to my secretary. But now I suppose, I'll just have to get used to it."

And, if Trevor Pearcey is right, it will be the rest of us.

Geoff Maslin

There's no business like research business

American universities, struggling off vestigial quilts about doing business with industry, are becoming dynamic players in a sharpening national competition to lure new high-technology industries to their home states. In statehouses around the United States, politicians are looking to their local universities to spawn industrial research parks, collaborative research agreements with industry and special training centres to meet the emerging needs of hi-tech businesses.

The United States has already forged some remarkably close links between higher education and industry. Many of the hundreds of microelectronics and, lately, biotechnology firms clustered in "Silicon Valley" in California and Route 128 in Boston owe their existence to Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology respectively. Less famous outside the United States, but in some ways more interesting, is the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina.

Called the Triangle because it is equidistant from three major universities - North Carolina, North Carolina State and Duke - the park is the biggest in the United States and contains nearly 40 separate research centres. With the highest per capita concentration of Ph.D.s in America, its companies and laboratories employed 17,500 people at a total cost of \$375m in 1981.

Creation of the Triangle was a master-stroke for a state which, in the mid-1950s, was dominated by traditional industries like textiles and tobacco and had to watch a northward migration of many of its young and better educated citizens. So it is no wonder that other states have tried to follow its example. At last count, more than 18 states were planning to develop research parks modelled on Stanford and the Triangle.

One of the most ambitious projects is the Houston Area Research Center established by a consortium of Texas universities. HARC will occupy 100 acres and about a new 400-acre site set aside for a new University of Houston campus.

It will be part of an even grander



The Burroughs Wellcome headquarters and laboratory at the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina.

project initiated by a local corporation, the Mitchell Energy Company, which intends to create an integrated 25,000-acre residential, research and light manufacturing community. Research parks are also being considered by universities in Arizona, Florida, Maryland, Montana and Washington.

Whether the new parks will do as well as the Research Triangle is still an open question, however. It took 25 years for the Triangle to prove its success, and at many points progress was very slow indeed. It grew sluggishly during the 1960s and by 1965 contained only nine laboratories employing fewer than 1,000 people. A turning point came when IBM brought a 400-acre site, and two federal laboratories joined the Triangle. Universities hoping for quick and easy successes are likely to be disappointed.

Research parks, however, are only part of the armory American universities are deploying to capture high technology investment. Other approaches include the creation of research and technical centres, and an explosion of cooperative university

industry research ventures and research consortia.

The university-based research centres perform applied research for a fee and help local firms pool their research resources without duplicating facilities and equipment. As well as providing a source of extra income, the centres give university students closer contact with practical technological problems.

Examples abound: the University of Wyoming has set up a special industrial fund to pay for applied research serving local businesses. The University of California has a centre for Microelectronics Innovation and Computer Research. Opportunities (MICRO) designed to stimulate the growth of new businesses by offering graduate fellowships and industry-oriented research projects. The scheme receives matching grants from industry.

Other universities have balked at the expense of setting up entire centres, but have created special offices providing short-term technical services, such as patent searches and technical staff, to local businesses.

A centre for industrial cooperation at the State University of New York, for example, provides technical assistance to 15 fee-paying industrial affiliates. And the University of Missouri has a special agreement with the automobile industry to retrain workers whose jobs are changing because of automation.

Several major universities have begun to look upon industry's appetite for early access to research findings as an opportunity to form exotic business consortia which plough substantial funds into their campuses. One of the most complex examples is Engenics, a chemical processing company spun-off by Stanford University in 1981.

Along with six other companies, Engenics supports a Stanford-based non-profit making Center for Biotechnology Research and involves two other universities - the University of California and MIT. Patents that arise from its work belong to the universities, royalties to the centre and exclusive licensing rights to the supporting corporations. Stanford itself owns 30 per cent of Engenics equity.

Another Stanford initiative was the creation of the Center for Integrated Systems, under which 18 sponsoring corporations helped build a new microelectronic research centre. The arrangement is not like traditional philanthropy - the sponsoring companies expect "enhanced access" to the centre's work. But Stanford's president, Donald Kennedy, says their sponsorship will not give the corporations exclusive rights.

Somewhat similar initiatives are under way in other states. Five corporations are sponsoring a research centre at Purdue University in Indiana to develop computer prototypes. And Pennsylvania State University has 20 industrial sponsors for a cooperative programme in recombinant-DNA technology.

The explosion of entrepreneurial activities by American universities has many causes. Not the least is the impact of a renewed national emphasis on entrepreneurship, illustrated well by the creation at the University of Texas of a chair of free enterprise and an Institute for Constructive Capital-

ism. But a major impetus has been pressure from state governments, which fund much of the work at research universities and have come to expect an economic return.

In recent months, however, the extent to which state governments have started to compete with each other for high technology investment has raised new concerns. In some cases, the scramble to entice new firms by offering tax cuts, rent reductions and cheap access to university research appears to be getting out of hand.

Last year, for example, Texas won an intensive competition to persuade the Microelectronics and Computer Corporation, a new research consortium launched by several electronics corporations, to make its home in Texas. In return, however, Texas had to promise major new investments in its local universities. The danger, some governors believe, is that the competition is enabling firms to get away with relatively meagre investments of their own.

Their concern surfaced for the first time last year in a report issued by the National Governors Association. Describing the competition as "the great American high-technology sweepstakes of the 1980s", the report said that there was only a finite number of firms to bid for and that no single state could expect to capture a significant proportion of them.

What worries governors is that their eagerness to entice firms into home states will do nothing to increase the overall number of high-technology firms in the United States as a whole. And although it is likely to be the fastest growing sector of the American economy in coming years, high technology will still be relatively insignificant source of employment compared with traditional industries.

One result of the new emphasis on high technology may therefore be to neglect more important traditional industries which face bigger problems. With universities playing a leading part in the interstate competition, the same danger faces traditional disciplines on the campus.

Peter David

Maria Zotwana is a very old black South African woman. She lives in what is termed a "closer settlement" in the "independent" homeland of the Ciskei. She was moved there along with 3,000 others by the South African authorities as part of their programme to rid "white" South Africa of economically useless members of the African population. Elukhanyweni is described as a "typical closer settlement... not a free, not a blade of green grass, a few withered mealie plants, a few shrivelled cabbages, and row upon row of wooden box houses, counterpoised by row upon row of corrugated iron roofs". Elukhanyweni (ironically, the Xosa name means "place of light") is one settlement among hundreds. Maria Zotwana one unit among hundreds of thousands - a "worst case".

Researchers found her frightened and alone and starving. Speaking a rustic idiomatically, she told them the story of her life: "I was born in the Tsitsikama in the Eastern Cape. I was born there by the Boer War. We lived on a farm, my father worked the lands. We liked living there. We had our own land, our ancestors lived on this land. We planted vegetables, potatoes, beetroot, mealies we planted."

I was 15 when I got married. Yes, I loved my man, he was a good man. My man worked the lands and chopped wood for the white man. I worked in the house. I liked the work. I got four rand [about £2] in the month for the work, the white man was good to us. It wasn't these people's fault we had to go. Now

when we hear we must go away from this place, the white man he says to me, old woman I hear you must go away, now you must be satisfied. From there then, my man got sick and then he gone and died.

This thing came so sudden upon us. We did not know that we were coming here, we did not know where we were going to. Because we like our place. We plant and we sow and we go on. Here we cannot plant and we cannot sow. Here there is just a little place in front of your door, put here a thing and there a thing and that is all.

When they came to us, they came with guns, with came to us, they came with guns, with came to us. Then we had no choice when guns were behind us. They did not say

anything, they just said, get in. And when we came here, they dumped our things. What can we do now, we can do nothing.

They bring us to this sad place, this is now no place to live. Here the land is like stone, one can't even try to maybe work this land. Here is only death. Only death in this place. Here there is not enough food. Nights I go to bed without food.

The animals, too, yes, the animals too, they don't want this place, they rather die. The animals and the children, they just die. In this place a child walks in the morning and he sits and he looks and tomorrow he is dead. The Lord has gone from this place. He is not here anymore.

Home truths for surplus people

Robin Hallett examines an exposé of forced removals in South Africa

South Africa in its entirety presents an immensely varied and complex social pattern over which has been placed an exceedingly intricate entanglement of laws. Yet the essence of apartheid is very simple. South Africa is legally a white person's country. Black South Africans of African origin have rights to citizenship only in the 10 homelands, four of which are now "independent".

Demography must be made to tally with legality: as many blacks as possible must live in homelands which make up no more than 13 per cent of the total land area of the country. From the homelands they can come, should their services be required, as migrants or commuters, to take employment in the republic; yet their legal status remains that of foreigners.

How successful Pretoria has been in its demographic engineering can be seen in one set of figures. In 1960, 39.5 per cent of the African population were living in the homelands; by 1980, the proportion had risen to 54 per cent. It has been the achievement of the Surplus People Project to document more richly and to analyse more cogently this whole monstrous process than has ever been done before. The project was conceived and carried through within South Africa by a dedicated group of South African researchers, giving their services voluntarily and working on a shoe-string budget.

The series of reports now runs to five substantial volumes. To anyone concerned with the Third World - and every country now has its own internal Third World, its areas of destitution and endemic unemployment - the project's reports can be recommended as an inspiring example of humane and committed research.

Forced removals, pushing people off land they regard as home, are nothing new in South African history. The process can be traced back to the earliest days of white settlement. Seventy years ago, the Natives Land Act of 1913 prohibited the purchase of land by Africans in white areas and went on to draw a firm line between areas of black and white settlement. Its provisions also led to the eviction of many Africans who were cultivating land on white farms as sharecroppers or cash tenants.

The novelty of apartheid lies not so much in its basic aims as in the logical rigour with which the policy has been pursued. Forced removals have certainly not passed without notice in recent years: Cosmas Desmond's study *The Displaced People* received international publicity when published in South Africa in the early 1970s. Within the past few years, the Institute of Race Relations, have in their publications provided constant reminders of what was happening in rural or peri-urban areas.

But forced removals are a piecemeal process, much of which has taken place unreported. During the 1970s the strikes in Durban, the disturbances in Soweto and Cape Town made more dramatic news - while easily visible borders - the revolutions in Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe - seemed far greater political significance than South Africa's future; and so most opponents of the regime failed to pay sufficient attention to the massive programme of demographic engineer-

ing in which the government was all the time steadily involved.

The publicity accorded to developments of the squatter camps on the outskirts of Cape Town - the demolition of Modderdam - the constant threats to Crossroads - served to restimulate interest in the problem of forced removals. In February 1980 a group of concerned individuals, mostly academics and social workers, came together for a seminar out of which the Surplus People Project was born.

If the academics were stronger on theory, the community workers possessed a much richer store of practical experience, a "healthy mixture". Some of the academics went on to get their first experience of field work; community workers were introduced to theoretical material that helped explain what they had observed for years.

What may loosely be called "liberal South Africa" is often reviled by those who regard the country simplistically from a distance. The Surplus People Project reveals something of the strength and vitality that liberal South Africa still possesses. Its bastions are to be found in the English-speaking universities, in some of the churches and in a variety of voluntary organizations and research institutes of which the Association for Humanistic Studies is the most prominent. In Pietermaritzburg may serve as an example.

Outsiders often wonder why institutions so critical of government policy are allowed to operate. There are three possible reasons for the government's forbearance. Those who rule in Pretoria, for all their show of toughness, can never quite shake off the habit of glancing uneasily over their shoulders to see what the world of "western civilization" is saying about their actions; too rigid to resist the ripples of protest even from right-wing politicians in the West.

More important is that though Afrikaners are somewhat thinly represented in the ranks of the liberal organizations, within Afrikaanderdom there still exists a strong libertarian tradition, whose upholders would certainly not welcome an attack on the liberties of other white groups. Finally, there is probably a cynical calculation in government circles that whatever happens in the English-speaking world is of no very great significance in the disposition of forces in the country as a whole.

The reports of the Surplus People Project have three sources of strength. They embrace the entire country, including the homelands (but with the partial exception of the Transkei). They provide over 20 richly detailed case studies of specific communities, some new settlements established after removal, others old established communities that live under threat.

The project lists 11 distinct "categories of relocation"; to follow these through is to deepen an understanding of the political economy of contemporary South Africa. About a third of all those who have suffered relocation have come from the white farms. As white farming has become more mechanized and capital intensive, the need for a large black labour force has declined. Now these black people can be pushed off into the homelands, so too can the inhabitants of the "squatter camps" (the SPP prefers



"Informal settlements" that have grown up around the large urban centres.

The logic of apartheid demands the eradication of the so-called black spots, small pockets lying outside the boundaries of the "native reserves" as demarcated in 1913 where Africans had acquired, mainly in the nineteenth century, freehold rights to land. Logic also demands that many of the old urban locations (urban black spots) be eliminated by moving their people to an adjacent homeland from which they can commute to their former places of employment.

The political geography of South Africa requires that an attempt be made to "consolidate" or "rationalize" the homelands by giving them a more compact and cohesive shape - an impossible task, especially in Kwazulu, the most populous of the homelands, which was made up at the last count of 48 large and 157 smaller pieces.

One can see what opportunities such a situation provides for the tidy-minded (if totally unimaginative) bureaucrats of the apartheid state. Group areas legislation, applied mainly to "coloureds" and Indians, has removed many people from their homes in old established urban centres to new suburbs laid out on the periphery of the major cities. Influx control applied to Africans through the mechanism of the Pass Laws provides for the removal of unauthorized African migrants to the white urban areas.

In parts of the country, the construction of dams, the establishment of nature reserves or the proclamation of certain areas as being of military or strategic importance provide other reasons for removals. Within the homelands ethnic disputes between different groups have led to further removals: thus the authorities of "independent" Bophuthatswana are trying to rid their "country" of all non-Tswana people. Also in the homelands so-called betterment schemes have provided further pretexts for removals.

The large map produced by the Black Sash (and reproduced in the pocket of the first volume of SPP reports) provides a dramatic overview of the incredible political geography of contemporary South Africa. The 10

homelands are disposed in a mosaic as baffling and illogical (except perhaps to the apartheidists of Pretoria) as the state system of eighteenth-century Germany. Lending into each homeland is a cluster of red lines, illustrating the main routes along which people have been moved.

Thus tiny Qwa Qwa, squeezed against the borders of impoverished Lesotho, has seen its population increased no less than 10 times between 1970 and 1982 as thousands and thousands of people have been pushed off the white farms of the Orange Free State. Qwa Qwa is an extreme case but population statistics show that between 1970 and 1980, every homeland - and the homelands are generally the most impoverished areas of the country - saw its population shoot up, never by less than 50 per cent, in some cases by 200 per cent.

How do people survive in such circumstances? One may take as an example - and a particularly favoured one - Dimbaza in the Ciskei, transformed into a showplace by the South African and Ciskeian governments who have invested no less than R30m (£20m) in the town (population 14,500) and built an industrial estate containing 25 factories.

Yet, according to the SPP's estimate, Dimbaza has an unemployment rate of 35 per cent; in the crucial male age bracket of 15-24 the figure climbs to a horrifying 48 per cent. Occasionally, an informant is quoted as referring to some improvement. "In Hofmeyr (in the Eastern Cape) we were under the Boers", one Dimbaza resident remarked, "but here someone is not instructed to do this or that except at work." Against that must be set such comments as: "It was better on the farm - we had stock, no rents, we had fields and the farmer helped us whenever our children got sick" "I do not understand this one... There are no ways of cutting wood as on the farm, if we could return back to the place where we used to live before, we would be very glad."

"Up to a point", the SPP concludes, "the policy of relocation has worked frighteningly effectively but there are increasing signs of pressure and strain within it as well. Pretoria is less willing to risk a violent confrontation with

those it wishes to remove than it was in the more confident days of the 1960s."

A combination of effective local leadership and efficient community organization, support from liberal white institutions and widespread publicity both internally and internationally can sometimes stay the government's hand. But a great many black communities in South Africa are too small, isolated, impoverished and divided to be able to enjoy these special advantages. Faced with the juggernaut of apartheid, they have no alternative but to submit.

"When I look a black child in the eyes," Dr P. J. Koornhof, minister of development and cooperation, is quoted as saying, "I want to tell them that they have a future in South Africa." Dr Koornhof is regarded as one of the more enlightened members of the Nationalist government. One wonders how he would react to Maria Zotwana's story.

South Africa, so members of its ruling class constantly point out to visitors, faces unique problems. This is not entirely true: there are many other multi-ethnic countries in the world and South Africa's basic social and economic problems are commonplace in the Third World. Where the country is unique is in possessing a ruling class which has worked out an elaborate theory of government whose application leads inevitably to the further impoverishment of those who are already the poorest.

"They bring us to this sad place... Only death is in this place... The Lord has gone from this place." There is a haunting accusation in the words of the old black woman from Elukhanyweni. No one for whom South Africa is still "the beloved country" can afford to ignore them.

The author is a writer on South African affairs.

Forced Removals in South Africa - The Surplus People Reports Vol 1 General Overview pp120; vol 2 The Eastern Cape pp387; Vol 3 The Western and Northern Cape and Orange Free State pp197; Vol 4 Natal pp572; Vol 5 The Transvaal pp365. Published by the SPP, PO Box 187, Cape Town.

Ernest Boyer



Faculty unions end up with a poor bargain

A decade ago, the future of faculty unions and collective bargaining on American college and university campuses seemed bright.

In 1974, 277 colleges and universities had bargaining agents — the National Education Association or the American Federation of Teachers. Among them were 222 public and 55 private institutions. (Of the 222 public institutions, 180 were two-year community colleges.)

A major boost to faculty unions came in 1976 when the conservative American Association of University Professors decided to become a bargaining agent. It began to look as though collective bargaining in colleges and universities was the wave of the future.

Now, in 1984, there are 343 recognised bargaining agencies in public institutions of higher education. The number of such agencies in private colleges and universities is hard to determine, but everyone agrees that after a decade of expansion the growth has stopped.

Why this turn around? Since 1980 the courts have struck several hard blows against collective bargaining in higher education, blows that have left faculty unions in private institutions groggy and on the ropes, and the even more numerous unions in the public sector troubled by the trend.

What were those reverses to faculty unionization in the United States? Here are three:

In 1980 the US Supreme Court ruled in a case involving Yeshiva University (New York City) that faculty members at private institutions of higher education are "managerial" employees. As a consequence, the National Labor Relations Board has applied the Yeshiva decision to 20 colleges, negating the bargaining rights of faculty there.

This year an especially painful and ironic blow to the unions came from one of the court tests affected by the Yeshiva decision — the case at the Polytechnic Institute of New York. The National Labor Relations Board asserted that the Yeshiva ruling applied even if the "managerial" rights of faculty were in place because of earlier collective bargaining. To do right, the unions concluded, was to lose rights.

Later in 1984 came faculty unionization in private universities, what some have called "the knock-out punch". At the conclusion of a long and bitter struggle between the administration at Boston University, a private institution (with 28,000 students) and the American Association of University Professors, the judge ruled not only that faculty served "managerial" functions but, additionally, that faculty were "supervisors" within the meaning of the National Labor Relations Act.

Many leaders in higher education, both administrators and

faculty, delight in the turn of events. They are convinced that for faculty to use "trade union tactics" runs counter to the tradition of collegiality and informal consultation that characterizes, they say, the best traditions of higher education. President John Silber of Boston University vigorously represents this point of view: "Trade unionism is an essential feature in American life, but it has no place among the faculty of a great university." Other leaders, however, are less inclined to see faculty unions overthrown. They point out that institutions of higher education, like other institutions in modern society, are divided into legitimate interest groups — by professional skills, by academic and administrative tasks — and a provision for collective bargaining, especially when voluntarily entered into, provides stability and order, fairness and openness in the determination and implementation of certain policies.

Others suggest a middle ground. The decision-making arrangements on campus should, they say, be as varied as the agenda to be faced — ranging from formal negotiations to informal conversations. And in those institutions where collective bargaining is introduced, faculty senates and other less formal arrangements should be retained.

It will take insight, good judgment, at least a little wisdom plus a dash of luck to decide those decisions that are best handled at the bargaining table, and those that are best handled informally at the water cooler or over a cup of coffee. It is one thing to sit together in front of the fireplace and quite another to hold somebody's feet to the fire. And yet, given the complexity of the issues to be faced, both governance strategies may be needed.

While the legitimacy of collective bargaining within the academy is being vigorously debated, larger more fundamental issues have emerged. During an era of slow-down and retrenchment can the nation's colleges and universities make tough decisions and manage responsibly their own affairs? If so, what are the arrangements by which this self-governance can be effectively accomplished? And if faculty and administrators do not direct the destiny of the campus, who will?

What is fascinating about the current governance debate is that the courts seem to be showing more confidence in the ability of faculty and administrators to work together than educators themselves. In private institutions, certainly, and in public institutions, probably, the courts are now calling for faculty and administrators to work out appropriate decision-making arrangements, voluntarily and cooperatively to do what academics have always said they are prepared to do — run the college.

Bruce Spencer considers the problems facing trade union education and urges a radical new approach

The 1970s were the growth years of trade union education, in particular they saw TUC day release courses firmly established. The 1975 Employment Protection Act granted paid release to workplace representatives, 1976 saw the first Department of Education and Science/Department of Employment grant to the TUC education department, and 1978 brought the regulations granting recognition and paid time off for union safety representatives. The number of students on TUC courses run by local authority colleges, universities and Workers' Educational Association (normally one day a week for 10 weeks) grew from 2,260 on 160 courses to 44,000 on more than 3,000 courses.

The first part of the decade was spent building up demand for basic or introductory courses, but as the numbers completing the courses grew and the more diverse weekend schools shrunk there was greater demand for more wide ranging "follow on" day release courses. These looked in more detail at employment law, work study and wage payment systems, financial information, new technology and of course health and safety.

The establishment of these courses provided a more comprehensive though still largely work-based education programme. During this period tutors and institutions were fully stretched coping with the demand and had little time to consider the impact courses were having.

In 1981 there was a dramatic turn around, in the previous year the growth rate had been checked but now TUC courses fell by a fifth, in 1982 and 1983 the fall has continued and after allowing for the growth of short courses the decline has been a cumulative 20 per cent taking course numbers back to the levels of the mid-1970s. The defeat of the Labour government followed by economic recession and legal restrictions on trade unions left tutors and the TUC education department wondering how to regenerate.

Thriving collective bargaining arrangements appear to require relative economic prosperity and a willing even cooperative management; take those conditions and many workplace trade union organizations crumble. Trade union education with its emphasis on building up collective agreements appeared to have done little to prepare workplace representatives for this new harsher environment.

From the early days of the day release programme the TUC education department had developed a clear view about the methodology to be employed on their courses. First, they argued that shop stewards had to be generalists and they would therefore benefit from one tutor per course, not a parade of subject experts doing a different slot throughout the day.

This in turn necessitated active teaching methods which centred on the representatives and their experience. Tutors with an educational background understood that the origins of this emphasis went much to the developments in multi-skill, multi-disciplinary child centred primary education. Other quickly adapted to this educational style which was developed and unified by the TUC education department briefings and by the material produced centrally by the TUC curriculum development unit.

The quality of the centrally produced material and the emphasis on student centred techniques had a general beneficial effect on courses offered. They were particularly successful in helping workplace representatives with few educational skills (most having left school between the ages of 14 and 16) develop confidence in the classroom.

These methods and materials took the students from basic considerations like how to read an Act of Parliament, to difficult problems like the interaction between common law and statute in determining the contract of employment. But it also had the effect of making some tutors dependent upon that material, unwilling to break out into uncharted areas and so allowed the TUC to exercise distant control over what was going on in the classroom.

Part of the problem for the TUC was that many union courses were being run in management or business studies departments and sympathy for trade union concerns could not be guaranteed. But of course it also could be said that the TUC had tended to turn the courses more in the direction of "liberal adult education" and any criticism of the specific methods utilized within



Liberal responses to the harsher climate

que of the policies of the TUC. There were regional differences depending upon the attitude of the TUC regional education officer.

As Professor Bernard Jennings, president of the WEA, has commented: "Union representatives facing plant closures and redundancies, the reorganization of working methods and new government legislation which is designed to limit the powers and privileges of trade unions are equipped with skills which assume stable employment and a central role for local collective bargaining. They are skilled at conducting meetings, taking minutes and writing reports and they can calculate redundancy payments in seconds with the aid of their pocket calculators. But they have little understanding of the broader issues and of alternative economic and political strategies."

This new policy neatly fits in with the TUC's 'new realism' approach

In meeting the changed circumstances facing trade unions there has been a general recognition that part of the problem of the declining influence of unions is that union education has been targeted at the lay official level and the ordinary member has been left behind and ignored. Efforts are now being directed at "membership education" with shop floor and office representatives being equipped with the necessary teaching skills on "education methods" courses.

This shift of emphasis is mirrored in the remaining ten-day programme by adopting the ideas of "student centred" learning to not only determine the course methods but also the course content. It has led on to a two stage (20 days) introductory course for both general representatives and health and safety representatives. The intention of this new style course is to hand over to its participants so they can determine its content and direction.

More time is spent "in committee" discussing workplace problems and on agreeing an agenda for the course. Less time is spent looking at knowledge areas outside of representatives' direct experience.

While this new emphasis can be heralded as a liberalizing of previous TUC education policy and as allowing students choice as to what they study on their own courses, it is of course open to the same criticisms which have been made about child-centred education in schools. So far, the TUC education department appears to have ignored these criticisms and refused to debate the policy in general, or indeed the specific methods utilized within

that policy. They have realized that if left to their own devices representatives will duck the difficult questions of racism and sexism, but have not acknowledged this is but symptomatic of other problems with the approach.

There is also the separate but important question of the amount of time the new methods, used to the extreme, can take; put simply it is the best use of the only ten or 20 days paid educational leave most representatives will get. A further even more important consideration is what do we mean by student choice? Does student choice only take place within a course with the parameters set or should students be able to choose between distinctive courses.

This new education policy while appearing libertarian neatly fits in with the TUC's "new realism" approach to dealing with the social and economic policies of the Government. It avoids taking on board those issues and areas of study which cannot easily be tackled by course participants.

The general "businessness" of the course disguises the fact that it may not be a course participants any further forward in their understanding of industrial society. This is partly illustrated by attempts to downgrade the "follow on" courses and in particular the elimination of the employment law courses which would of course have a new dynamic in the 1980s compared to the mid-1970s.

Tutors who have contested the educational arguments, pointing out the limitations of "student centred" pedagogy and workplace problem-based courses have been berated by the TUC and colleagues alike. They are characterized as old-fashioned lecturers, opposed to new methodology and membership education, determined to hand down knowledge in tablets of stone.

Nothing could be further from the truth, but for many tutors in the present uncertain circumstances raising these arguments is seen as making fuss and causing trouble which could result in the TUC cutting certain tutors and institutions out of the scheme. Also any attention directed to TUC education is depicted as threatening the Government grant for this work.

Fortunately not all trade unions agree, a number of unions see the need to base their education policy on a more prolonged attack on members and their immediate problems and on a greater understanding of the economic, social and political questions facing these members. The Transport and General Workers' Union, the National Union of Public Employees and the National and Local Government Officers' Association are among those who have recently reviewed their education policy. They are part of a growing number of unions who recognize they are going to have to campaign for the right to use public funds as they see fit and indeed for a general right to paid educational leave for their members, perhaps along the lines of provision in Italy or Sweden.

When reviewing the progress and problems of trade union education to date the TGWU in its document *Reshaping trade union education* noted: "Although the 'principles' of trade unionism and the 'wider' questions of trade unionism are more often than not included in such courses, this is a secondary aspect often 'slipped in' by the tutor. Public funds are not made available for courses which are explicitly 'political education' or which aim at a broader base than the training of representatives."

The document went on to recommend: "Funding should be made available via the TUC for the following educational activities: ... courses with a broader aim: new technology, women's studies, economics, labour history, political studies, community studies; courses involving wider groups of trade union membership; trade union officials; in particular those reps and officials in particular trade union members as a whole and also including specifically youth, women and ethnic groups."

In the end an open and informed debate about trade union education, located in the needs of trade union education and in the tradition of liberal adult education must prove to be a better strategy than accepting, even pre-empting, cuts in the programme and accepting (as happened last year) "employer endorsed" courses for part of the TUC's grant.

The author is lecturer in industrial relations in the department of adult and continuing education at the University of Leeds.

Pretending to rehearse

Playing Shakespeare
Sundays, London Weekend Television
on Channel 4
By John Barton
Metwuen, £9.95 and £4.95
ISBN 0 413 54780 9 and 54790 6

What a pity the producers of LWT's new series about the modern actor's approach to playing Shakespeare didn't take director John Barton at his word. In the opening programme he says:

"The sort of points that need to be made could only arise truly in the living context of working with actors, not by a director telling the actor about them but by an actor learning them largely by experience, and applying them for himself. ... we don't offer ourselves as high priests but as explorers or detectives. We want to test and to question."

Hearing this, I'm sure that even Simon Callow would be clamouring for admission to these workshops. It evokes just the sort of creative collaboration between actor and director he craves in his recent book *Being an Actor*. Director and performer so absorbed in the sweaty dialectic of rehearsal they are oblivious to the fly-on-the-wall cameras recording the whole thing so that key moments arising naturally from the process can be edited later to demonstrate Barton's ideas. So much for Callow visions. In fact what LWT have done is put Barton in a studio and have him more or less deliver a lecture straight to camera. He illustrates points by pretending to rehearse with various BSC actors who are also required to deliver obviously scripted lines as if they were spontaneous. "What exactly do you mean when you say 'naturalistic'? That word can mean different things to different people can't it?" — a device hopelessly exposed for the wine-maker it is each time a bit of real conversation manages to side-step the gear-rolling auto-cue. For, although John Barton proclaims that the actor's sensibility and experience are paramount he's often forced to brush aside their contributions so as not to be deflected from his programmed course. "That may well be true. But we should now look in more detail into

... is the kind of patronizing exchange which happens too many times."

That a director of Barton's clout and perspicacity has allowed himself to be all but trampled in this way is puzzling. Again and again the substance of what he's saying is undermined, even belied, by how he's chosen to present it. As part of the exposition of the basis of modern acting techniques for instance an actor quotes Stanislavsky: "If you speak any lines or do anything mechanically without fully realizing who you are, where you come from, why, what you want, where you are going, and what you will do when you get there, you will be acting without imagination." Alas, the irony (and I'm sure the splendid cast felt the sting of it more than once during the series) is that the stilted, classroom atmosphere of the programmes arises precisely from the fact that the actors, including Barton himself, the leading man as it were, have not been allowed to resolve who ...? where ...? why ...? what ...? etc. There are few things more quintessentially phoney than actors acting being actors. Notable exceptions, in the first programme at least, are Ben Kingsley, Sheila Hancock, and, most especially, Ian McKellen who manages to be natural and articulate throughout. At one point, asked by Barton to try the same line with several different intentions, his momentary hesitations before doing the exercise give us a fascinating glimpse of real acting skills at work.

Such incidents are not always adequately reflected in the book. The above sequence translated to the page makes McKellen appear to be instantly adept and hence bland. But they are the moments which salvage the whole enterprise. Barton is an inspirational director and is seen at his best when the distilled wisdom of twenty-odd years of distinguished achievement is brought to bear on nuts and bolts detail. As when, for example, Judi Dench and Richard Pasco, working in a later programme on a passage from *Twelfth Night*, face the question of what to do with a new sentence or a new speech begins halfway through a line. The characters share the verse line and therefore the performers need to decide whether the cue should be picked up immediately or whether to play a pause. Now one of the basic tenets of Barton's method (which he



ner for Georgian opera and musical standards that are anything but provincial. He claims to have been born a bass, but his training began as a teenager with morning lessons at the Tbilisi Conservatory, complemented by afternoons at engineering school. Music quickly went out however, and in 1978 the Ministry of Culture in Moscow put him in their exchange programme whereby young Russian singers are sent to the mecca of La Scala, Milan in exchange for young Italian dancers who spend three years at the Bolshoi school. Burchuladze's teachers in Milan included Callas's great colleague Giulietta Simonato; he also perfected his Italian and drank in "all those beautiful voices" — Pavarotti, with whom he sang in the Covent Garden *Aida*, remains his idol. In 1981, although the youngest entrant, he won the Verdi Competition in Moscow, and back in Moscow in 1982, the Tchaikovsky Prize. But his roots remain Georgian, and he disclaims any ambition to leave the Tbilisi Opera and join the Bolshoi in Moscow.

In Tbilisi there are many advantages. For instance, we sing Italian opera in the original, but in Moscow and Leningrad they translate everything into Russian, which I don't like. And Georgian opera is more beautiful than any other, but they are comic, tragic, very lyrical, full of folk melodies and big choruses. We have our classics like Paliashvili's *Abdram and Etro* and Dolidze's *Koto and Koto*, but modern composers like Taktakishvili are still developing the genre.

He waxes particularly enthusiastic about a new "anti-fascist" piece, "title untranslatable", by Chelidze, which involves a symbolic war between the powers of music and those of militarism and has a collaged text in four



John Barton with Sinead Cusack

takes pains to emphasize is only a method) is that once an actor becomes aware of how a Shakespeare text works, can read Shakespeare's shorthand stage directions, clues and hints emerge which help to fuse psychological realism with heightened language and verse pattern. So.

ORISNO: How dost thou like this tune?

VIOLA: It gives a very echo to the scut Where love is throned.

ORISNO: Thou dost speak masterly. Does Orsino pick up his cue on this last line or pause? Pasco makes the plausible point that Orsino is impressed by the young boy's (Viola's) eloquence and might use a pause to register this. Barton agrees with the motive but asks Pasco to just try a pause after the line, that is, at the end of the verse-line. He does and finds that the pause not only allows him to play his reaction but also to transform it into the impulse for his next line.

My life upon't, young though thou art, thine eye

Ed Thomason

Georgia on his mind

languages, including a setting of "To be or not to be". Apparently, there are hopes that the Tbilisi Opera will bring the work to London in 1986.

"The staging of Georgian operas is very interesting too," he continues. "We use a lot of the most progressive theatre directors, and I think our productions of *Salome*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Boris Godunov* are better than any others I have seen. The audience is very discriminating and sophisticated. We have our own stars and Georgians are all connoisseurs of singing. When the stars don't sing, there's no audience — everyone goes off to watch the football instead." (Burchuladze himself is a keen rugby-player — another Georgian enthusiasm, it emerges.)

He is full of admiration for Covent Garden, its audiences, and the English language, which he considers very gratifying to sing. His mastery of it was currently being tested by learning Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* for the Lichfield Festival, where he made his first British appearance last summer, in a recital which concluded with a spirited and heavily accented rendering of "I got plenty of nothin'".

On the subject of future trips to the West he is diplomatically guarded, but at the time of interview his thoughts were achingly fixed on Tbilisi, which he had not seen since April. His wife gave birth to their second child a few days before he left, and he has the prospect of leading the Tbilisi Opera to Moscow in the autumn for Boris Godunov, his favourite role, and Leporello in *Don Giovanni*. A true bass with an equal talent for the Russian and Italian repertory is his priority, other opera-house managements are clearly going to be hard pressed to get as much of Paata Burchuladze as they would like.

Rupert Christlansen

Events

Continuing exhibitions:

To August 10, Brighton Polytechnic. *Images of the East*: paintings and drawings from Yemen by Julia Gascoigne.

To August 18, Arts Centre, Aberystwyth. Embroidery from the Embroiderer's Guild collection; also fifty paintings of British birds.

To August 25, Manchester City Art Gallery. *Sporting Art*: over six hundred items including paintings, prints, pottery, glass and costume.

To August 26, Museum and Art Gallery, Leicester. *The Vijayanagara Exhibition*: Where Kings and Gods Meet. Photographs and measured drawings of an abandoned medieval city and pilgrimage centre in South India.

To September 2, Victoria and Albert Museum. William Kent (1685-1748): designer and architect. Fifty original drawings by Kent in the Palladian style.

To September 2, Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield. Julia Margaret Cameron: Victorian photographer.

To September 2, Industrial Museum, Bradford. *Floods of Light*: flash photography 1851-1981.

To September 14, Arts Council, Piccadilly. *Samuel Johnson 1709-84*.

To September 16, Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia. Anthropological collections from Cambridge.

New exhibitions:

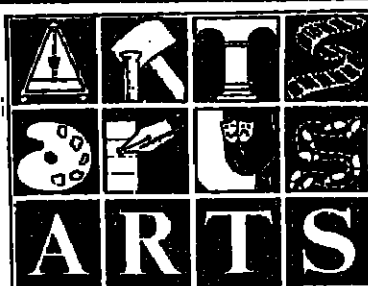
From tomorrow, Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff. *Lives of the Saints*: photographs of St Helena by Rory Coonan and Stuart Mackay.

From tomorrow, Ferens Gallery, Hull. Peter Greenham: paintings and drawings.

From Sunday, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford. *Polish Constructivism*. Also drawings by Pierre Bonnard.

From August 10, City Art Gallery, Leeds. Anthony Caro: sculpture 1969-84.

From August 11, Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham. Henry Lamb (1883-1960): portraits from the 1920s.



Midsummer in Oxford

One of the main drama productions at this year's Edinburgh Festival is a revival of J. M. Synge's *Playboy of the Western World* directed by Lindsay Anderson. Produced by United British Artists, the production was premiered on Monday at the Oxford Playhouse as part of a summer school project *Midsummer in Oxford*.

For the past month Balliol College has been playing host to a new drama enterprise, the British American Drama Academy (BADA), which has organized a full programme of lectures and master classes from leading figures in the British theatre. Lindsay Anderson has been "principal lecturer" while the "faculty" includes actors Frank Grimes and Simon Callow and director Toby Robertson. Visiting notable have included translator Michael Meyer, playwright John Mortimer and directors Max Stafford-Clark and Adrian Noble. The school continues until next Saturday.

The great majority of students enrolling for this year's inaugural summer school have been American. It is hoped that the establishment of a scholarship fund may enable more British students to take part in subsequent events.

The entire eight hours of the Kenith Trodd television version of Dennis Potter's *Pennies from Heaven* will be shown at the National Film Theatre next Sunday. It is a rare opportunity to see this production: it hasn't had a public showing since 1979, because when MGM bought the film rights it was on condition the BBC withdraw its version from circulation. It is with MGM's permission that the showing will take place, as the first in a season of television drama selected by Kenith Trodd and entitled "Pennies from Television" which continues to the end of August.

The Arts Council is in the process of mounting a major exhibition of paintings by Auguste Renoir, to be shown at the Hayward Gallery in London in the new year. He is believed to have painted around 5000 canvases: this exhibition will select around 80 from collections around the world to represent his work at its very best. The last major Renoir exhibition in Britain was in 1953.

After the success of *Napoleon* and the establishment of the Thames Silents as a regular feature of the London Film Festival, the resurgence of the silent film seems assured. A London screening of Victor Seastrom's *The Wind* starring Lillian Gish with accompaniment by Carl Davis and the English Chamber Orchestra played to a capacity audience a couple of weeks ago. This year's Thames Silents offering will be *The Thief of Bagdad*, the Douglas Fairbanks fantasy adventure film made in 1924.

Meanwhile in the autumn Channel 4 will show four of the productions from previous years: *Show People* (King Vidor), *Broken Blossoms* (D.W. Griffith), *A Woman of Affairs* (Clarence Brown), and *The Wind* (Victor Seastrom).



Lillian Gish in "The Wind"

BOOKS

The failure of Labour

by Stuart Winkland

The Labour Governments 1945-51
by Henry Pelling
Macmillan, £25.00
ISBN 0 333 36356 6

There are two ways of reviewing this most excellent and authoritative history written by a sympathetic chronicler of the Labour Party. Either on its own terms, as history, which would mean challenging some of the emphases and interpretations of particular events, or alternatively for the significance of its subject in the longer history of the Labour Party. In a short review I am attracted to the second course.

Dr Pelling's study confirms me in my long-held belief that the Clement Attlee governments were truly an epiphenomenon, resulting entirely from the British experience of the Second World War. With all respect to Professor Eric Hobsbawm, if his theory of the forward march of Labour is pivoted on the first major Labour governments of 1945-51, then it never happened. The Attlee governments were hardly a culmination, and their experiences in office guaranteed that they were not to be a harbinger.

On the first point, Attlee and his leading ministers were formed by their membership of the wartime coalition government. Before 1939 they were little-known and little-regarded politicians, both nationally and in their party. Attlee only became leader of the party as a stop-gap in 1935, and Stafford Cripps was expelled in 1938. The weak programmatic theory of Labour was only developed during the war by association with the thought of William Beveridge and John Maynard

Keynes. More important were the political results of the British experience of the war. While not discounting entirely the effect of memories of the 1930s, the myth concerning the Services' vote now being propagated by the Labour Party is wrong. Most of the young men who fought the war were previously employed. Dr Pelling is rightly sceptical of the influence of the Army Bureau of Current Affairs (ABCA), in forming political opinion. My own view is that the war imbued its active participants with a deep hatred of disorder and violence, and an appreciation of the virtues of civil society which the Labour Party, with its passion for order and regulation, seemed to epitomize. And the civilian population, through willing cooperation and participation in the war effort, gained some glimpse of what socialism might be. In addition, as Dr Pelling remarks, the achievements of the Red Army seemed to show that socialism could be efficient, although in reality they were an expression of nationalism and raw self-preservation which transcended, rather than expressed, the character of Soviet socialism.

What happened to cause the decline of the Labour Party after 1951 to its present lamentable state? The explanation is, largely, that characteristics of the party, still latent before 1939, were exposed by experience of government, and their enormous contradictions starkly revealed. It might be objected that here I am employing hindsight - yes, but not much. The inevitable decline of Labour became obvious to me when Hugh Gaitskill cruelly detailed its weaknesses in his failed bid to fundamentally reform the party. The General Election of 1959 was the last time I voted Labour. On some of these contradictions Dr Pelling is very frank. Others can be

inferred from his meticulous account. The Attlee government's failure, of historical necessity, always in hook to the unions. The short-term benefits to the Government were ministers such as Ernest Bevin, outstanding even in a talented administration; the long-term implications, for a party with radical reformist pretensions, have proved quite disastrous.

There were clouds no bigger than a man's hand in the initial stages of the formation of the 1945 government. The new Trade Union Group of the parliamentary party, for example, had by 1946 completely eclipsed Herbert Morrison's Labour Reluctants Group. The wider implications of this were to be seen in the industrial nationalization measures. Dr Pelling produces evidence of the appalling consequences of the trade unions' ability to secure positions of outstanding strength in the nationalized industries as their price for cooperation. In the electricity industry, for example, by 1955, after massive new investment, value-added per worker was less than it had been in 1935, which prompts from me the comment that in so far as the public industrial sector has contributed a large share of the 1984 jobless totals, it has only been a transfer of the unemployed from the shop-floor to the street. Attlee and Morrison, in their credit, emerge as very dubious about nationalization. The controversy over the steel industry, and on possible future public ownership, was wished on them by the ideologues of conference and the National Executive Committee, a dismal and by now familiar tale.

The 1945 Government only really had two years of freedom of action before external and internal financial pressures began to impinge on an already over-loaded economy. These pressures brought to prominence Cripps and Bevin, and relegated in importance the Prime Minister, even affirming Churchill's aphorism that Attlee was a man to whom things tended to happen. The left of the present Labour Party now criticizes Attlee for "capitulating" in joining Britain in the late 1940s to the US-dominated western capitalist economy. The unreality of this attitude never fails to astonish me. For a trading nation such as Britain the only alternative would be membership of Comcon, which I suppose some of the brethren would prefer. Involvement in the Korean War might have been a mistake, although Dr Pelling is very good on the international pressures which were working on the Government at the time. But the policy of high overseas expenditure on defence, which continued well after Korea, and which guaranteed a continuous balance of payments problem and regular deflation of the economy, was not an issue between the British political parties. It was a legacy of the Great Power myth which survived until the 1960s.

Perhaps the most important myth manufactured in this period was that of the "postwar political consensus", founded on the acceptance by all parties of the welfare state and Keynesian economics. In this sphere Dr Pelling gets it wrong. Keynesianism really was a myth, its theory irrelevant

to the postwar British economy until very recently. There was never any lack of effective demand, only a lack of production. Keynesianism had, in fact, an enfeebling effect by concentrating attention on macroeconomic solutions to economic problems, which together with Labour's obsession with public ownership guaranteed the failure of most comprehensive supply-side policies for the economy in the postwar years. But not only did the myths, and the complacency engendered by the long postwar boom, inhibit any deep examination of the ills of the economy, they also inhibited any profound examination of the true nature of the Labour Party. Any such examination would have revealed that ideology had not been defeated, only temporarily suppressed. All the assessments which appeared, including those by Dr Pelling, were pretty superficial. One pointer to the basic character of the party was the defeat of the Gaitskill reforms, which ensured that in the name of ideology the party was prepared to continue a ritual adversary struggle with the Conservatives, on a highly restricted political agenda which revolved around purely symbolic and economically irrelevant issues such as public ownership, a ritual which the Conservatives welcome and connive at, since with their infinitely superior statecraft they always win in the end. Gaitskill recognized that the old Labour Party was functional for the Conservatives - the bulk of the party never did and still doesn't.

And now the next generation of left political analysts are producing complicated socioeconomic theories to account for Labour's decline. They have some substance, but the real failure of Labour has moral causes. Apart from the moral arrogance of any chlastric philosophy, the reaction of some of the party to the terrible national experiences of socialism in the

USSR, China and Cambodia has been inadequate. One does not have to dig much below the surface to find evidence for this. The hard left of the present party, the successor to the more innocent Keep Left movement with which Attlee had to contend, seems not to have been affected at all. Good members of the party, faced with mounting evidence of contradiction, either cling pithetically to self-deception, or grow cynical, or leave, and only pervasively silly or otherwise inadequate personalities can be found to take over the leadership. It is these considerations which explain the extremism, despair, opportunism and superficiality which are the defining characteristics of the present Labour Party. Never glad confident morning again; probably not even another false dawn.

The 1940s are now producing nostalgia in some of the left, who long for that spirit of civic cooperation which briefly raised many hopes. But it was artificial - there is no simple moral substitute for war. They point to the fact that the Attlee party, even after its reverses and failures, still pulled in the election of 1951 the highest support ever given to a party in power in politics. This sort of speculation is futile - the only possible response is that a party which comes to power as a result of the working of an indefensible electoral system cannot complain if it is dismissed by the same system. Such people are correct, however, when they say that there needs to be a widening of political consciousness and of the current political agenda before any further social and economic advance can be made. The trouble is that the Labour Party, still in pursuit of an *ignis fatuus*, is now the chief obstacle to achieving this. In fact it has been since 1948.

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BOOKS

James's politics

Henry James Letters
Volume Four: 1895-1916
edited by Leon Edel
Harvard University Press, £25.50
ISBN 0 674 38780 5

Leon Edel has squeezed the sprawling correspondence of Henry James's last two decades into a single volume - but only through a policy of drastic omissions. Over 230 James letters from this period which have been published either in Percy Lubbock's *The Letters of Henry James* (1920) or in Leon Edel's own *Selected Letters of Henry James* (1956) and *Henry James and H. G. Wells* (with G. N. Ray, 1958), are omitted from the new volume. These have not been published at all, three of which, are, however, quoted in part here in the footnotes.

There seem to be no coherent principles of selection. Out go the letters to A. C. Benson on the origins of "The Turn of the Screw", to Mrs Humphry Ward on the "masterly indirectness" of "going behind" the "register", to Edith Wharton on the Franco-American subject of *Madame de Mores*, to W. D. Howells on James's Preface as a "plan for Criticism", to H. G. Wells on the need for detachment in treating "functional Love", and to Mrs William James on the fact that wars are mostly made by and for "Society"; to mention only the most important gaps. In for the first time come letters to J. B. Pinker on the controlled fantasy of *The Sacred Fount*, to Oliver Wendell Holmes on "fat" Edward VII ("the caresser"), to Violet Hunt on what gives Madame de Viennet away to the reader of *The Ambassadors*, and to Theodore Riddle on the general flatness of level of American culture. Many of these new items are, however, already familiar from references and quotations in biographical works. What it amounts to is that anybody who wants to look up a James letter will now have at least four editions to check through. This volume is far too selective to use without Lubbock and the others beside it.

The picture which emerges of the later James, though not significantly altered, has some new highlights. It is clear that James's habitual critical commitments were closer to the belatedist and aesthetic taste of his day than those who have approached him via Leavis's *The Great Tradition* may expect and wish. For example, he admired Shelley unreservedly as a great world-poet, "of the rarest, highest, and most perfect of the moderns". Equally extravagant is James's insistence that the Earl of Lovelace's *Astoria* (1905) contains "the last word about Byron... after it". And he liked the weaker Conrad; Chance he found infinitely more readable, "in fact really rather yielding" difficult and charming), than

any of the last three or four impossibilities, wastes of desolation, that succeeded the two or three final good things of his earlier time", a cavalier dismissal of *Nostramo*, *The Secret Agent*, and *Under Western Eyes*, surely.

In general critical terms, James is more successful, defending literary art as giving permanent interest to subjects. There is a previously unpublished letter to Shaw (January 23, 1909) in which James argues that criticism begins with judging what the work has made of the subject, not with improving on the subject. Shaw had wanted the dramatized version of "Owen Wingrave" to end with the pacifist hero's triumph over the ghost, instead of *vice versa*, but James claimed to have produced "such an intensity of impression and emotion" about Owen as must promote his glory and example for ever. This exchange results in a clearer intellectual victory for James than does the more celebrated "art that makes life" contest with H. G. Wells six years later.

What is also more evident now is James's increasingly open commitment to Liberal politics at this time. (The dinners with cabinet ministers, culminating in his application to Asquith to act as a sponsor for his naturalization, are best interpreted as part of this process.) However, Edel has omitted some of the letters providing the best evidence for this. He does not include, for example, one in which James claimed that the General Election of 1910 had revealed to him "how ardent a Liberal" lurked in his own "cold and clammy exterior". In 1912 he praised the Liberal Government for "proceeding very justly, sanely and ably" against the cabinet ministers, "labouring as they are everywhere" like a huge Bugaboo "and fortunate would be the country that had it out with Labour first" to a practical issue. The other threat to the Liberals came from the Continental militarist regimes. In 1909 he had the hideous thought that, "when the German Emperor carries the next war" into England, the chimney-pots of his own Lamb House in Ryde "may be his very first objective" (another letter dropped from *Henry James Letters*). In 1912 he insists on confirming the reality "of the for the most part raging and would-be throat-cutting and mutually dynastic nations". James's belligerency when war finally broke out is not then to be understood as armchair Blimpism. He saw Austrian suppression of Serbia as a cynical abandonment of a moral responsibility, with which Germany was associated in a conspiracy of violence, so that after the war "the old systematic organization and concentration" of such insane forces must be dealt with as a matter of absolute priority (from a letter dropped by Leon Edel). Grey's pertinacity for peace, on the other hand, had given Great Britain a comparatively clean "state" on entering the war. James would seem to express Liberal views all the time. It remains a pity that there is still no single collection of James's letters from which one can draw the evidence for such arguments.

Alan W. Bellringer

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Orwell's search for a voice

The Language of 1984: Orwell's English and Ours
by W. F. Bolton
Blackwell, £19.50 and £7.50
ISBN 0 631 13658 4 and 13722 X
George Orwell: the search for a voice
by Lynette Hunter
Open University Press, £18.00 and £5.95
ISBN 0 335 10580 7 and 10424 X

These disparate books have in common a challenge to conventional representations of Orwell as the plain old Etonian writing caustically simple prose. Professor Bolton makes us wonder how a writer assiduously concerned with questions of style could be

so naive, misinformed, or wrong-headed about language. Lynette Hunter asks how this lucid expositor could have been so frequently misread by his critics. Both books raise questions about Orwell the rhetorician; each, however, pursues an argument quite remote from the concerns of the other.

Keywords in Ms Hunter's argument are *stance* and *strategy*. A strategy is a rhetorical technique, a process of style and construction; "stance" is a moral-discursive relationship, directing and also resulting from the interaction of writer, reader, and text. A "negative strategy" - an authoritarian, unimaginative rhetoric - produces a "negative stance", by imposing a reading and denying the reader's role in the interpretative process. Conversely "positive strategies" promote "positive stances". The text then becomes something more than the dictatorial property of an omniscient author; it is an activity in the public domain, and its values, like those of democratic politics, are open to continuing argument and assessment.

Stance is thus dynamic, the very

reverse of *stasis*; and Orwell's progressive shifts of stance have successfully eluded critics: he is a writer who will not keep still. His "windowpane" prose has the desperate lucidity of one struggling to understand and accommodate his own changes of position on questions of art and politics, private will and public responsibility, dualistic argument and pluralistic dialogue. Ms Hunter traces this "search for a voice" from the early novels, through the journalistic essays, to *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. In these late books the stance is allegorical; the reader is free to interpret the text figuratively, to relate it to his own experience, to question and reassess its values. Nothing is imposed, and in that way allegory differs from fantasy, which is simply closed argument translated to an emblematic plane. Allegory liberates; fantasy confines.

Ms Hunter pursues her theme with a sincere and energetic commitment to the values she expounds. Conviction, indeed, is the major appeal of her work. She has taught me something about Orwell, and has made me review my own social, political, and aesthetic positions. This is a valuable service. I can only regret that her style neglects old-fashioned elegance, and that in her expository zeal she drags her hapless reader through dense thickets of dissertationspeak. Too many ponderous sentences mar an engaging book.

Professor Bolton's style is amiably lucid, and his book gives a fellow English teacher that most palatable of all treats: to have the familiar for substance with a pinch of the unfamiliar for taste. His strategy, however, is disingenuous, and his style misleading. The contrasting references of the book are not "Orwell's English and our own" - signs of usage then and now - but in Bolton's own words, "what Orwell thought self-evident and what well-informed English students now assume about language and mind". Much of the book in fact concerns what students need to learn about theoretical and practical aspects of English; there are chapters on the theory of language, language change, language variety, language mixture, literary language, language machines, and language abuse.

I should be gratified if my own students knew so much, and I shall certainly commend this book - as an introduction to language studies, however; not as a work about Orwell. Orwell is an attendant figure, in some places quite prominent (for example, in the chapter on literary language), in others making a token appearance. He represents the untutored layman, whose random and prejudiced notions about language Professor Bolton genially examines, modifies, and corrects.

It is true that Orwell's view on linguistic matters sometimes read like pronouncements from Disgusted of Turnbridge Wells. "He did not test the linguistic tenacity of his time and social class against the rigour of any theory or even any systematic observation," says Professor Bolton. Like many another Orwell selected his linguistic beliefs to strengthen his political and social stance. This often led him into sweeping generalizations, sometimes into the blatant utterances of prejudice. "He really did not want to know", is Professor Bolton's comment on Orwell's arrogantly perverse judgments of American English.

Despite the variety of his experiences, Orwell appears to have selected unessentially to anything not quickly accommodated to the familiar pattern of his suppositions and expectations; he noted in himself a disagreeable propensity to regard strangers adversely, as stereotypes. The same insecurity made him mistrustful of change in language; the same passion for the personal and immediate perhaps made him impervious or indifferent to linguistic theory. But then his status as an abstract thinker must always be questionable: Ms Hunter shrewdly notes how the theorist of the essays constantly lags behind the adept practitioner of the novels, in which ideas are realized in image and action.

In the end, it is by his novels that Orwell must be judged: if, through them, this troubled, courageous, lonely man has done anything to touch the imagination and conscience of the generation of '84, then his shortcomings as a commentator on language are of minor consequence.

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Deceived with Kindness: a Bloomsbury childhood, published yesterday, is the memoir of Angelica Garnett, daughter of Duncan Grant. This photograph taken in 1928, shows her aged ten, with Vanessa Bell. (Chatto & Windus and The Hogarth Press, £9.95.)

Protean interests

The Collected Letters of William Morris
Volume one: 1848-1880
edited by Norman Kelvin
Princeton University Press, £50.30
ISBN 0 691 06501 2

At 21 William Morris feared that he might become "a lazy aimless, useless, dreaming body all my life long", but this new collection of letters reveals the intensely practical and active nature of his daily life from youth to middle age. Morris emerges as a man of protean interests and energies, whose commitment to social equality and the beneficent value of work informed more than six hundred letters in which socialism, architecture, and the decorative arts are recurrent themes.

Morris's revolutionary socialism is implied in his 1878 endorsement of Matthew Arnold's "Equality", while disparaging its "rose-water" remedies:

"Nothing can be done till all rich men are made poor by common consent. Meanwhile, the despised meanest mill turns in London, called elsewhere a 'beastly congregation of smoke-dried swindlers and their slaves', and Morris takes a healthy interest in his own commercial activity. (His many letters about dyeing, to Thomas Wardle of Leek, attest to his obsessive perfectionism and eye for detail in the work of Morris and Co.)

The Tories, "the party of stupidity", are routinely scorned by Morris, who writes of a Tory MP that "doubtless his principles could be packed in a very small box". Republicanism inspires engaging descriptions of Queen Victoria as "the Widow Guelph" or, with reference to her Highland servant and alleged lover, "the Empress Brown". Inseparable from Morris's socialism is his creed that aesthetic enjoyment is an inalienable right. He urges "the importance for people of living in beautiful places", an ideal attainable if only "the standard of revolt against the sordidness which people are so stupid as to think necessary" could be raised. Morris is no armchair activist. In addition to such passing gibes as those against the "society of affect Gilbert Scott ('a damned old thief') and the

"sadly befuddled" High Church in Edinburgh, his impassioned eloquence on behalf of "Anti-Scrape", the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, which he founded in 1877, is prominent. The epic poet is glimpsed in accounts of the 1871 Iceland expedition, where Morris rejoices in the settings of saga literature and from whence his despatches enrich for us the landscapes of his prose romances.

There are few personal revelations, though his freedom when writing to friends such as Philip Webb and Cornelia Price limit his self-discovery as an artist and socialist. The ambivalence of his relationships with Aglaia Coronio and Georgiana Burne-Jones is nowhere illuminated, though it is to the former that he alludes mysteriously in 1872, to the "one thing wanting" in his relationship with his wife. Contrary to the editor's inference about this, the editor's inference in context refers simply to the relationship itself. Most poignant are Morris's invariably affectionate letters to Jane, and the kindly and lively letters to his daughters Jenny and May, all of which show Morris's ability to sublimate his feelings of anguish over Jane's affair with Dante Gabriel Rossetti. When the letter are together at Morris's beloved

Kelmscott, he confides to Aglaia that Rossetti "has all sorts of ways so unsympathetic with the sweet simple old place, that I feel his presence there as a kind of slur on it".

The many purely routine letters will not sustain the reader's inevitable interest, but this is a perpetual hazard of such projects. It is curiously pedantic of the editor to include for completeness two letters published in journals over Morris's name, but which Morris, in a letter of September 25 1879, specifically disclaims having written. This substantial volume is otherwise impeccably edited by Professor Kelvin to the highest standards of modern editorial practices. The letters do not reveal a new Morris, but they do generate a sustained impression of the warmth and generosity of spirit of a visionary, whose claim to relationship with his wife, Cornelia Price in 1856, that "my work is the embodiment of dreams in one form or another", was convincingly true to the end of his varied and productive life.



The cartoons of Beveridge (left) and Attlee (above) are by Victor Welsz ("Vicky") and appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* in the early 1940s. They can be seen in an exhibition of twentieth-century cartoon portraits in the Graphics Gallery at the University of Kent which runs until next Friday.

Analysing a landslide

The British General Election of 1983
by David Butler and Dennis Kavanagh
Macmillan, £25.00
ISBN 0 333 34578 9

There have been 12 general elections since the Second World War. Each one has been covered by a study in the remarkable Nuffield College election series. David Butler has been associated with all these books and this is the fourth he has written with Dennis Kavanagh. As usual, the authors have assigned specialist chapters to academic collaborators (Martin Harrison writes on broadcasting, Martin Harrop on the press, Byron Criddell on parliamentary candidates, and John Curcio and Michael Stead give a

statistical analysis of the results.) What makes the Nuffield volumes distinctive is that they review almost all aspects of an election, ranging from the making of campaign strategies by the political leaders and their advisers to the behaviour of the voters, the state of national and local party organizations and the selection of candidates. The variety of material which is included gives rise to some problems, but is also the main strength of the series. Breadth of coverage sometimes entails a sacrifice of detail and of focus. For example, the explanations of the Nuffield studies of the motivations of individual voters are tentative and brief. For a scientific account, based on academic survey research, of the effect of unemployment on voting choice in 1983 and of other influences, it would be necessary to await the detailed study being prepared by Anthony Heath and John Curcio. The fact that elections are analysed at different levels by the Nuffield studies also means that the authors do not

concentrate on a single explanation of the result or propound a single theory of voting.

There is, however, a basic logic to the broad approach and to the variety of statistical and non-statistical evidence collected by Butler and Kavanagh. A general election is an event that brings politicians face to face with voters. The minds of the policy-makers and strategies need to be explored as well as those of the voters. Moreover, campaigns have a whole series of consequences. Not only do they determine who will be the next Prime Minister, they can also have an impact on government policies and on the election, or dismissal of individual MPs. The determination of the party and the campaigns in the constituencies must therefore be examined if a rounded view of the electoral process is to be obtained.

The *British General Election of 1983* maintains and even surpasses the standards of former volumes. The chapters

on the formation of campaign strategy are impressive and thorough. It is a pity that the authors do not feel at liberty to reveal the names of the 300 politicians and party organizers whom they interviewed while preparing the book. (In an effort to protect their sources, they frequently cite newspapers as the authority for information that has, in fact, been obtained directly from the decision-makers.) The statistical analysis, by John Curcio and Michael Stead, documents the growing gap between the Labour Party's lost momentum in the south of England and in rural areas while it almost held its own in its strongholds in the big cities and in the north. In constituencies with high unemployment, the swing to the Tories was severely reduced. Parity because of these local variations, the traditional pattern of postwar elections - a largely uniform swing - did not apply in 1983.

The main theme emerging from the book is the overwhelming unpopularity

of the Labour Party and of its leader, Michael Foot. Fear of Labour was, for most voters, a far stronger motive than enthusiasm for Mrs Thatcher and for the Conservative party. The determination to exclude Labour from office meant that there was no change in government in 1983 and it also meant that the election itself lacked drama. But the election represented more than a routine endorsement of an incumbent government. As Butler and Kavanagh point out, the election "revealed the traditional bases of the British party system and of British political ideas were in ferment." This is an indispensable guide to the upheavals of politics during Mrs Thatcher's first term in office and to the makings of Labour's electoral disaster in June 1983.

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BOOKS

Crooks' tour

In the Underworld
by Laurie Taylor
Blackwell, £7.95
ISBN 0 631 13489 1

Do-gooding, soft sociologists versus punitive hard-liners. Penological debate has for years been polarized by a false dichotomy, we are told. Laurie Taylor's delicious and unforgivingly fascinating 'crooks' tour of London reveals that what the toughest cons really fear is sociology. Introduced to a top armed robber who's interdicted academic is told aggressively: 'I did sociology in the nick...'

Yeah, I used it as a way of conditioning myself... Punishment in the gym on the weights. And punishment in the cell reading your books.

Jargon grates on their acutely sensitive ears like the clanging of a cell-door. When "Laurie" first tentatively sug-

gests to John McVicar that he'd like to interview a few "top villains" for a book on *The Subculture of Professional Crime* he is told there would be one condition. Not, as he assumes, something as sociologically routine as confidentiality or anonymity. "Please, Laurie, will you promise never again to use that fucking word 'subculture'."

This book will make most academic criminologists uncomfortable. It implies that the theories, empirical research projects and policy analyses of academe have scarcely touched on what the ordinary public, and professional criminals themselves, would take as the world of real crime. If the villains interviewed in the book realized the extent of criminological ignorance about their activities they might suspect the enterprise of being a rival con. As Taylor describes the reaction of a successful fraudster to his questions about techniques for arranging police corruption:

Why didn't I know all this: hadn't John said I was a criminologist? Weren't there lectures on my course given over to 'deals' and 'verbal' and 'fitting up'?

The villains also casually pour cold water on many cherished aspects of the conventional criminological wisdom about penal policy. For example, it becomes clear that the likely sentence for an offence was a crucial factor in their business-like calculations. Taylor nicely emphasizes the irony of all this:

Over the years I'd given countless lectures on the need to reduce prison sentences. I'd carefully outlined the research which showed that long sentences were no more effective than short ones in deterring potential offenders, then turn to the Dutch experience, pass round a few histograms, and finish with a quotation from Churchill about a country's penal policy being the most accurate guide to its state of civilization. All admirably liberal, and usually well received. Unfortunately, none of it fitted the present indication from Geoff that the early introduction of a statutory sentence of 10 years for handling stolen travellers' cheques would do much to eliminate the offence most favoured by professional fraudsters.

Scorn is heaped on theoretical endeavours to categorize or explain. When Dave, a con man, takes them to a Bob Dylan concert, he casually pockets one ticket.

"What on earth has he done that for John? ... There's six of us, and he'd got six tickets. What did he want to cheat on that for?" Must be inadequate socialisation", came the muttered reply.

Not that the villains' eye-view is that far apart from some sociology. Their social analysis is reminiscent of the sort of essay a radical undergraduate might

have produced a few years back, a kind of pop Foucaultian. Taylor describes the "highly developed conspiracy theory... an account of how the 1 per cent at the top bamboozled the rest of the population, how they sat around and devised techniques (which included white bread, lead-poisoning and keg bitters) for keeping them undernourished and sickly and therefore quiescent."

Taylor adopts just the right tone for handling this touchy material. He narrates as if he was Dr Watson undertaking a criminal investigation without the aid of his usual mentor - well-meaning, sympathetic, but unfailingly naive. This both serves to elicit an anecdotal flood from his subjects, and to reassure the reader that he is not the only innocent natter around.

The concluding chapter reassures us that Laurie Taylor's sojourn in the underworld has not made him go native. He had been able to "guard against any dramatic increase in my general level of cynicism, materialism or tolerance of violence". However, he has incorporated enough of the aversion to categorization to avoid any attempt to draw neat conclusions from it. The nearest he gets is a tentative suggestion of the functions of villainy for maintaining social order, reminiscent of such radical analyses as Reiman's *The Rich Get Rich and the Poor Get Prison*.

I was... inclined to turn this version of the world on its head, and see such professional criminals as the ultimate 'mugs', in that their active collusion with the available villainous stereotypes allowed the rest of the population to go on believing that they indeed were the real enemies of society. Meanwhile, the subtler and less visible and more significant pieces of corruption and fraud could continue.

Taylor's guide John McVicar became increasingly disenchanted with the project, and now disowns it. In a scathing review in *Time Out* he explains: "I couldn't turn my friends into specimens in a jar". He quotes one of the book's respondents dismissing it as "a cross between Damon Runyon and Edgar Lustgarten... why didn't he tell me he was writing fiction". What ever the truth of this latest criticism, the book does seem to take us further into the world of professional crime than any previous study. It's certainly the best read in current criminology, and should disappear rapidly from quite a few shops' bookshelves one way or another.

Robert Reiner

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Marginal men

Georg Simmel
by David Frisby
Tavistock, £7.95 and £3.25
ISBN 0 85312 616 X and 617 X
Karl Mannheim
by David Kettler, Volker Meja and Nico Stehr
Tavistock, £7.25 and £3.25
ISBN 0 85312 687 9 and 688 7

These are two new titles in the "Key Sociologists" series which already includes books on Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Parsons and Freud. Karl Mannheim and Georg Simmel are lesser (or perhaps just neglected) figures in the sociological pantheon but they are very effectively introduced by the authors, who are already well-known for their work on these writers.

Most sociologists probably think of Simmel as the author of a formal sociology which was intended to show that social situations with apparently different contents might well have the same form. David Frisby shows that Simmel's interests ranged well beyond this topic, to the nature of sociology, the process of social differentiation, and the social role of money. Simmel embraces the dilemma characteristic of much of classical sociology. On the one hand, individuals appear to represent the only palpable basis of society. On the other hand, society must be some entity not reducible to individuals. Simmel's solution is to see the object of sociology as lying in the abstract properties of social relationships, one of which is differentiation. Frisby argues that Simmel's interest in differentiation runs counter to that of Durkheim, because while Durkheim is interested in how differentiation affects the whole social group, Simmel asks how differentiation affects the fate of the individual. In his *Philosophy of Money* the theme of social differentiation is carried on, for money represents exchange which is a crucial feature of social interaction and the division of labour.

Simmel emerges from Frisby's book as a provider of sociological insights, particularly insights about individuality in relation to social constraint. As such he provides the inspiration, to go and read Simmel which is, after all, what a series like this should be about. The book by David Kettler et al on Mannheim is almost as successful although in quite a different way. While Frisby's book is organized chronologically, theirs is arranged by the themes present in Mannheim's work. They start with a chapter arguing that Mannheim has to be seen as a sociological political theorist interested, for example, in the struggle between liberalism and conservatism and the role of intellectuals in the required synthesis of political ideas. A succeeding chapter deals, more conventionally, with Mannheim's ontology and sociology of knowledge. The remaining half of the book discusses Mannheim's later work

on diagnostic sociology and social reconstruction. This is an unusual but welcome emphasis. Most commentators have treated these later views as embarrassing and somewhat dotty ramblings. Kettler et al, however, show that Mannheim's notions of social planning were very much part of the culture of England in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and have to be taken seriously for that. If no other reason, this emphasis does, however, have a cost, for Mannheim's sociology of knowledge receives relatively little attention.

Although Mannheim and Simmel appear on the surface to be rather different from each other, what emerges from these two commentaries are their similarities. They were both marginal men, a marginality reinforced in Mannheim's case by repeated emigrations. This was reflected in their academic careers, or rather absence of them, for neither of them enjoyed the promotion they clearly deserved. Perhaps as a result, they both had a strong sociological interest in the phenomenon of marginality. One of Simmel's best known essays is on the

Grand errors

Durkheim's Sociology of Religion:
themes and theories
by W. S. F. Pickering
Routledge & Kegan Paul, £28.50
ISBN 0 7100 9298 9

Nine years ago, Dr Pickering produced his useful translated anthology of Durkheim's various writings on religion. Since then, he has provided a commentary on Durkheim's work on morals and education. Now comes what must be, if not the definitive work (for what in sociology is definitive?) an exhaustive work which explores all the major and many of the minor themes in Durkheim's study of religion.

In this intellectual biography, Pickering sets himself to tease out a variety of riddles about Durkheim's thinking, not merely as a matter of seeing where Durkheim got his ideas, although that occupies some space, but how they evolved, whether they were finally clear, whether they are still tenable and what contradictions and lacunae remained. Some of these riddles verge on the talmudic, but the answers to others could certainly affect our understanding of the development of aspects of sociological theory.

Despite the author's obvious respect for his subject, he stops short of hagiographic treatment. Like Steven Lukes before him, if not so markedly, he acknowledges errors and obscurities in Durkheim's thought: but the errors were grand errors, and the exploration of the obscurities, once penetrated by Pickering's lucid prose, can provide surprising insights.

Why was Durkheim so preoccupied with totemism - merely contemporary

stranger and Munnheim believed that sociological insight was often given to those on the periphery of social groups. That neither of them left a school of sociology may have something to do with their mutual tendency to write as essayists rather than great truths. They both explicitly rejected the necessity of being systematic; one cannot imagine either of them writing anything of the scale of *Kapital* or *Economy and Society*.

One concluding niggle. Undoubtedly contemporary sociology should have an interest in its more distinguished forbears. However we also need to know more directly how they may help us: how, for example, Mannheim's work relates to the requirements of a developed sociology of knowledge still recognizably Mannheimian. These books provide only the briefest of comment on this, admittedly difficult, aspect.

Nicholas Abercrombie

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anthropological fashion? Why did he suppose it to be a universal phase in religious evolution? If, as is now generally maintained, it were not, to what extent does that vitiate the analysis of his classic, *Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*? In seeking answers to these and similar questions, Pickering compares all Durkheim's other relevant writings including reviews and letters as well as his comments to colleagues. One particular issue that has excited Durkheim exegetes is the self-styled crisis in his thinking on reading W. Robertson Smith. (One may forgive Dr Pickering, an Anglican clergyman, for the minor mistake of blaming the Church of Scotland for expelling Robertson Smith from his seminary post for heresy - the church concerned was the Free Church of Scotland.) Pickering is surely right in surmising that it was not so much the content of the *Religion of the Semites* which inspired Durkheim but the method: Here was a study that might be said to constitute that "one well-conducted experiment" in which Durkheim repudiated so much faith, in contrast to the prevailing eclectic comparativism of the day. It provided, if not the model, then the justification, for Durkheim's intensive concentration on the Aryan to the exclusion of almost all other cases in his analysis of the "most simple" form of religion.

The ambiguities of Durkheim's thought were less self-conscious, and less productive, than those of Max Weber, and his apparent self-contradictions were bolder, as when he declared that all religions were true, but also that all religions were false or, in his famous dictum that social facts exist independently of their individual manifestations. Pickering makes capital of such propositions, unpacking with painstaking thoroughness the layers of wrapping in which their seminal significance is encased.

Given Pickering's coverage, it might



Tourists at the Pyramids, 1963, a photograph by Thomas Höpker taken from a new selection of his work published by Collins at £3.95.

seem captious to ask for more. But one regrets that, in his discussion of the functions of religion, he did not apply, albeit retrospectively, the concepts of indispensability, and the distinction of manifest and latent functions which would have illuminated his discussion of Durkheim's dismissal of pragmatism. Perhaps, however, the author felt that the weaker ideas needed more exposition - and more defence - than issues such as functionalism which (whether rightly or wrongly) attributed to Durkheim had profound subsequent influence in sociology. Perhaps one is not asking for more, but for a different balance. There is a long discussion of effervescence - surely one of Durkheim's less articulate and less influential contributions. It stands alone in the text, as if Durkheim's social theory were a focal point for change, rooted in the emotions of the assembly, as charisma was rooted in collective belief in one individual. But Weber's sociology was essentially an analysis of change, and

charisma was effectively invoked as one of its sources: whereas, in Durkheim, social change is very inadequately handled. Charisma has proved a vital, if now an overworn and vulgarized, concept: effervescence has disappeared from the analytical apparatus, and despite Pickering's lengthy exposition, and the sense that we have that there is "something in it", the concept has neither utility nor cogency.

To say this is, however, to express a divergent judgment and a different appreciation of particular aspects of Durkheim's work, but whether one agrees on such points or not, in the future all judgments of Durkheim will have to take into account Pickering's 580 pages, and will be in some degree inevitably indebted to him.

Bryan Wilson

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BOOKS

Closing ranks

Antibodies: their structure and function
by M. W. Steward
Chapman & Hall, £3.25
ISBN 0 412 25640 1
The Chain of Immunology
by George Feinberg and Mark A. Jackson
Blackwell Scientific, £4.95
ISBN 0 632 00881 4

Professor Steward's book is a recent publication in the excellent "Outline Studies in Biology" series, which attempts to provide a bridge for third-year undergraduates and postgraduates, between reference textbooks in classical subjects and the current state of research in specialized areas. *Antibodies* has been arranged logically to fulfil this purpose, with early chapters on the induction (including hybridomas), isolation and general structure of immunoglobulins, followed by consideration of antibody-antigen interaction and detailed structure and biological activities of immunoglobulin classes. A final chapter deals with the genetic control of antibody diversity and synthesis.

The introduction and early chapters contain some brief historical comments followed by an efficient summary of accumulated facts. Useful reference lists guide readers to more detailed further reading. As expected from Steward's research background, his coverage of the chemistry, thermodynamics and kinetics of antibody-antigen interactions is especially thorough. The potentially confusing topic of immunoglobulin genes is well presented and is a major strength of the book. Lesser problems such as hybridoma technology are dealt with admirably in about a page. And the many well-designed diagrams and tables help to illustrate points in the text. This is a refreshing presentation of the consensus view of what can be an amorphous topic.

Although *The Chain of Immunology* is one of the latest additions to Blackwell Scientific's impressive collection of immunology texts, it was one of the first to be conceived: indeed, Professor Feinberg admits to an "all-time record" gestation period (about 10 years). Two factors seem to have been involved in finally launching the book into an expectant immunological world: Feinberg's move to St Thomas's Hospital Medical School; and help from a medical student (Mark Jackson).

The book is a long flow diagram, best viewed as a wall-chart, illustrating the immune response process, with the accompanying text designed as explanatory notes. Because of its unusual arrangement, the authors advocate two complete readings before expecting enlightenment; and I judge this to be a

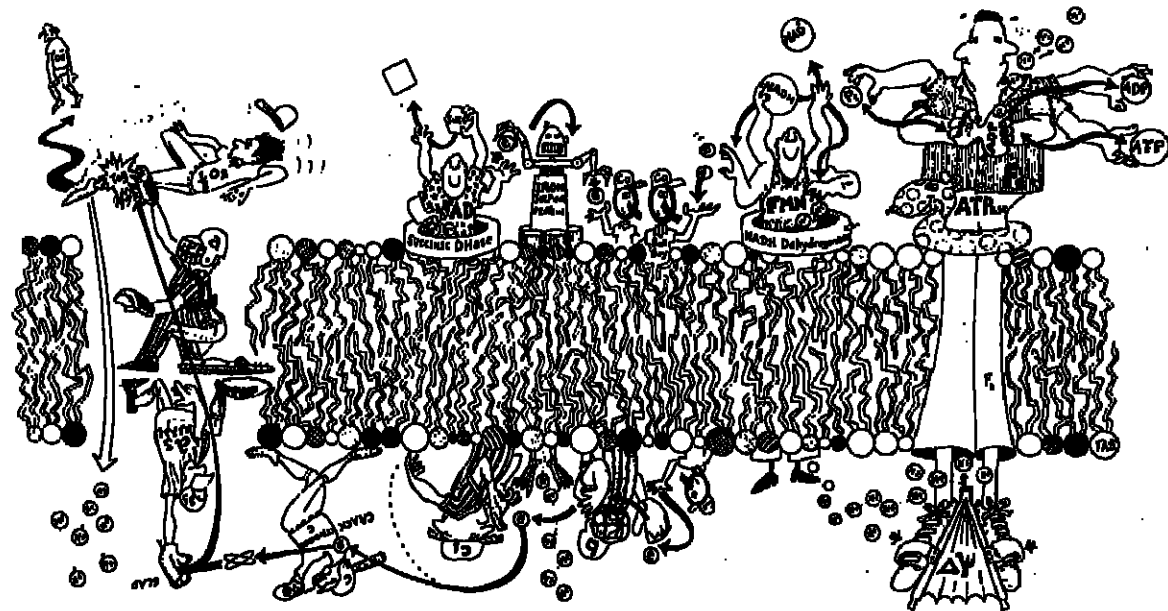
conservative estimate. However, they have deliberately excluded innate defences, though often ignored in immunology courses, these are probably just as important to the body as adaptive immune responses. Other (more surprising) omissions include the genetic basis for antibody diversity and synthesis; and histocompatibility antigens are mentioned only briefly.

Blackwell Scientific's professionalism and the artistic quality of the drawings (attributed to Jackson) have combined to give a stylish production, but one which is not always helpfully designed. For example, in the techniques section, although the authors seem keen to attribute the original worker accurately, there are no full references and the bibliography consists of only five suggestions for further reading. As a pictorial guide to immunology, however, the book compares favourably with J. H. L. Poyton's *Immunology at a Glance* (the second edition of which was published by Blackwell Scientific in 1982).

Although both *Antibodies* and *The Chain of Immunology* claim to be "guidebooks" or "route maps" designed to complement rather than supplant more detailed textbooks, in some ways this underestimates Professor Steward's book, which provides up-to-date coverage of all the most important considerations of the structure, synthesis and function of antibodies in the sort of detail that few larger textbooks can match. The pull-out diagram of *The Chain of Immunology*, which provides a schematic view of immune responses (albeit from one angle), might be helpful in crystallizing various apparently unrelated facts in a student's mind. However, the main text of this book is so confusing that as a route map it might lead the student into a slough of despond.

Alan Johnstone

Alan Johnstone is lecturer in immunology at St George's Hospital Medical School, London.



A cartoon by R. A. Bramley illustrating the generation and utilization of ion gradients, from the third edition of J. B. Fearn, R. Coleman and R. H. Mitchell's *Membranes and their Cellular Functions*, published by Blackwell Scientific at £9.80.

Only a few parts require any detailed knowledge of physics. Those that describe the environment in which the work was carried out, and the spirit of the laboratory require none; and these will perhaps be the most interesting to non-specialists.

The laboratory is shown to be a very friendly place, in which most workers knew what was being done in other parts of the building. One reason for this was the smallness of the building, so that there was only one tea room in which all were herded together each day: there was the fortnightly meeting of the "Cavendish Physical Society" which was designed to hear what others were doing or to hear a visitor talk; and there was the informal "Kapitza Club" that met regularly in college rooms. These facilities were available for workers in all subjects: there was no separation into different departments.

The work described was carried out under Rutherford's leadership, with Chadwick as his 'chief of staff', and had contrasting personalities: the self-confident, lively, extrovert Rutherford, is well known from previous descriptions, but little has been written about the pectum Chadwick. Here, four articles by the editor, in which he discusses the experiments, and the environment in which they were made,

A slow process

Diffusion: mass transfer in fluid systems
by E. L. Cussler
Cambridge University Press, £32.50
ISBN 0 521 23171 X
Diffusion in Liquids: a theoretical and experimental study
by H. J. V. Tyrrell and K. R. Harris
Butterworths, £40.00
ISBN 0 408 17591 5

Diffusion is the name given to the process whereby molecules in an initially inhomogeneous system perform random motions in order to make their concentration (or more exactly their chemical potential) uniform throughout the system. The process of diffusion plays a central role in many different situations. On the one hand, it limits the speed with which the human body absorbs nutrients through the intestine; and on the other, it can limit the efficiency of industrial distillations and the rate of corrosion of steel.

Perhaps the most familiar example of diffusion is provided by the solution of a coloured, crystalline solid in a liquid. If the crystal is placed at the bottom of a tall vessel containing an unstirred liquid, the colour of the crystal spreads throughout the liquid. After about a day the colour will penetrate only the bottom few centimetres of the liquid and only after a number of years will the solution attain a homogeneous colour. This example serves to illustrate the most important feature of diffusion - its slowness.

From the point of view of industrial operations, particularly in chemical engineering, the slowness of diffusion is often a nuisance because the overall rate of a sequence of processes is

determined by the slowest step. Since that step is often diffusion, an attempt is usually made to enhance the speed of mixing brought about by diffusion. In the example of the salt solution the addition of agitation to the diffusion process can produce an inhomogeneous solution in a period of minutes.

From the point of view of a fundamental understanding of diffusion, the slowness of the process is also a hindrance, as considerable patience and care are necessary to carry out accurate measurements of the diffusion coefficients characterizing the process in a particular system. In turn, this means that the amount of experimental information available to test fundamental theories of diffusion is rather limited. When these facts are compounded by the misunderstanding with which the subject of diffusion has been plagued since the pioneering work of Thomas Graham and Adolf Fick, it is not too surprising that the subject is incompletely understood.

These two books seem to have little in common beyond the occurrence of the word diffusion in their titles. Cussler's book is undoubtedly an introductory text in mass transfer for undergraduates in chemical engineering. Written in a refreshing style similar to that of lecture notes, it should be thoroughly readable by student and teacher alike. In view of its aims, the emphasis of the book is on the applications of diffusion equations. Considerable effort is therefore devoted to distinguishing between the general process of mass transfer and the special process of diffusion, and to the proper description of particular cases.

The book is full of worked, realistic examples of the use of the equations of diffusion and mass transfer. However, unlike many books on the same subject, the text is remarkably free of mathematics and has an unusual emphasis on physical insight. The widespread influence of diffusion in chemical engineering is illustrated by examples drawn from distillation,

absorption and dispersion. Although in most cases insufficient detail of unit operations is given to enable the book to stand alone in this regard, links with other texts are clearly established.

Tyrrell and Harris's monograph represents the opposite extreme of the spectrum of diffusion studies. Exclusively concerned with the fundamental aspects of diffusion, it provides a definitive statement of the current knowledge of the field of diffusion in liquids. The first section of the book is therefore something of a crusade, in which the authors carefully set out a consistent formulation of diffusion in terms of irreversible thermodynamics. The arguments involved are both subtle and complicated. Although these are pursued at perhaps too great a level of algebraic detail for non-specialist readers, this section provides for specialists a concrete foundation free from the loose usage which has characterized some earlier work in the field.

The review of experimental techniques of measuring diffusion coefficients in liquids is both comprehensive and clear. Diffusion coefficients are now determined with the aid of techniques as varied as nuclear magnetic resonance, light scattering and interferometry. In addition to the classical methods requiring the observation of the decay of concentration gradients. However, as the range of material covered in these sections is consequently very large, the book cannot provide a source of detailed equipment design. Each technique is nevertheless given a careful treatment (with full bibliography) and in many cases there is a valuable critique.

The wide variation of behaviour among the diffusion coefficients for various systems displayed in the review of experimental data which completes the monograph underlines the lack of a single, unified statistical mechanical theory of liquid transport discussed in an earlier chapter. The existing theories, based on simplified models of the liquid, often provide no more than an equation for the correlation of experimental data with little predictive power. Since, as Cussler shows, the chemical engineer needs diffusion coefficients for the purposes of design, whether or not they have been measured, the real link between these two books lies in what is not yet possible, rather than what has been done. The existence of this gap will ensure that the process of diffusion continues to be an important area of research and teaching aided by these two valuable books.

W. A. Wakeham

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Satellite sensing

A collection of articles on the principles and problems of surface and atmospheric data retrieval, emphasizing water's dominating influence, has been edited by Ann Henderson-Sellers and published as *Satellite Sensing of a Cloudy Atmosphere: observing the third planet* by Taylor and Francis at £18.00.

Georgio Occhialini had brought with him from Italy a coincidence counting circuit that enabled them to record many more positron tracks. J. D. Cockcroft won his race because he was both a mathematician and an engineer and was able to understand George Gamow's mathematical calculations about the forces holding the atomic nucleus together, and turn these round to show that the voltage required to produce disintegration was only moderately great (the competitors were struggling to produce greater voltages), and, as an engineer he was able to design the appropriate apparatus in conjunction with Metropolitan-Vickers, where he had been apprenticed.

This collection of articles, some written by those who took part in the famous experiments, some in the form of personal reminiscences about the laboratory and those who worked there, and some attempting to discuss the work in the wider context of the history of science, should prove interesting and instructive to a wide range of readers.

J. A. Ratcliffe

J. A. Ratcliffe worked at the Cavendish Laboratory from 1924 to 1960.

Inspired physics

Cambridge Physics in the Thirties
edited by John Hendry
Adam Hilger, £17.50
ISBN 0 85274 761 6

So much has been written about Ernest Rutherford and the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge during the 1930s that another book might seem superfluous. What can it tell us that we do not already know? The answer is: not very much; but it presents well-known facts in a new and attractive way.

Concentrating entirely on research in nuclear physics at that time, and on the three major discoveries of the neutron, the positron and the disintegration of atoms, the account is presented in the form of chapters written by 19 of the people who were concerned with the work, together with four articles by the editor, in which he discusses the experiments, and the environment in which they were made.

Only a few parts require any detailed knowledge of physics. Those that describe the environment in which the work was carried out, and the spirit of the laboratory require none; and these will perhaps be the most interesting to non-specialists.

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to those that were based on the results of complicated theory, so that their design required at least two people, one a theorist and one an experimenter. Although the significance of these changes is not emphasized, their effect on the Cavendish is hinted at in two ways. First, in some of the articles in which mathematicians discuss the parts they played there; and second, in an unduly long and detailed chapter explaining that much of the large equipment was supplied by the Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Engineering Company and that some of the experimenters had been apprenticed there.

The first of the editorial articles, and an excellent chapter by Norman Feather, discuss the relation of the Cambridge work to similar work done elsewhere - indicating that Cavendish experimenters were successful because their results were obtained just in time, before those of their competitors. How did that happen? Was there some underlying cause that led to the laboratory's winning the race each time? I am inclined to think not. Chadwick was the first to find the neutron because he "knew" it existed: he had been searching for it, for the past ten years. Blackett was able to improve on Anderson's earlier photograph of the track of one single positron because

